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Group offers information on missing Israeli

BEIRUT (AP) — A previously unknown group announced Sunday it was willing to offer details about a missing Israeli navigator in exchange for information about vanished Shiite Muslim leader Musa Sadr. "The Sadrists Organisation announces its willingness to provide details on Israeli navigator Ron Arad to the U.N. secretary-general through our Syrian brothers in return for information about Imam Sadr," a written statement said. Israel has demanded to know the fate of Mr. Arad and six other Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon before it will release Arab detainees in a U.N.-proposed prisoner swap that could free Western hostages in Lebanon. The typewritten 21-word statement in Arabic did not make clear what information the group might have about Mr. Arad or how it might have obtained it. There was no way to authenticate the message, which was delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, Imam Sadr, the head of Lebanon's Shiite sect, vanished during a visit to Libya that began Aug. 31, 1978. Leaders of the Shiite sect, the largest in Lebanon, held Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi responsible for Imam Sadr's disappearance.

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Iraqis told to use sun to purify water

AMMAN (AP) — Iraq advised its people to purify their drinking water by leaving it in the sun for not less than five hours, a newspaper reported. Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, said in its Aug. 22 issue reaching here Sunday that the sewage and sanitation department gave the advice after conducting experiments in water purification. The department said the experiments showed that if contaminated water is left in one-liter bottles in the sun for at least five hours, the light kills 99.8 per cent of bacteria, rendering water drinkable. "The results enable us to call on citizens who are doubtful of the quality of water, especially in towns and villages, to implement this experiment," the newspaper quoted the department as saying.

U.N. chemical teams inspect Iraq sites

BAGHDAD (R) — Two teams of United Nations inspectors began week-long visits to Iraqi sites Sunday to prepare the destruction of chemical weapons under terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. One 26-member team, led by John Sanderson of the World Health Organisation, said it had inspected 30 chemical missile warheads Sunday "within a reasonable distance of Baghdad." The other 10-member group, led by American James Knapp, said it would travel to the Muthana storage site about 100 kilometres northwest of the capital where destruction operations are scheduled to be carried out. The teams, which arrived Saturday, are the third and fourth chemical inspection missions to Iraq under the ceasefire agreement, which orders Baghdad to declare and destroy all its weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq reopens major Shiite shrines

NICOSIA (AP) — The Holy Shiite Muslim shrines of Ali and his sons Hussein and Abbas, damaged during riots after the Gulf war, will open Monday following the first phase of their restoration, the Iraqi News Agency reported Sunday. President Saddam Hussein ordered 35 million Iraqi dinars (\$112 million) as well as 100 kilograms of gold and 200 kilograms of silver be used for reconstruction of the shrines in Najaf and Karbala provinces, the agency said. INA accused "traitors" of stealing rare and valuable objects and historic manuscripts from the shrines.

Syria, Lebanon agree to fight drugs as demanded by U.S.

CHTAURA, Lebanon (R) — Lebanon and Syria signed an agreement Sunday to combat the drugs trade in eastern Lebanon, a move demanded by the United States as a precondition for aid to Damascus. The agreement, which also covered defence and other matters (see page 2), was signed in Chtaura, 45 kilometres east of Beirut — gateway to the Bekaa Valley and its extensive poppy and hashish fields. A U.S. administration official said last month Syrian military officers were involved in the drugs run by clans in the valley. He said Syria would not get U.S. aid or international loans until it cracked down on the trade, despite its support for Middle East peace efforts and the release of Western hostages.

Musa meets Iranian envoy for first time

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Sunday met for the first time with the head of the Iranian interest section in Cairo. Ali Asghar Mohammadi said after the meeting that Iran is keen on building relations in all fields with Egypt and Mr. Musa welcomed his remarks. Egypt and Iran reopened interest section in March after relations between them were severed for 12 years. Cairo sent Ahmad Namek, who holds the rank of ambassador, to head Egypt's section at the French embassy in Tehran. Iran sent Mr. Mohammadi, whose office is attached to the Swiss embassy in Cairo.

Gorbachev says he will not resign, ready to recognise independent Baltic states

Major conveys Group of Seven and IMF assurances to Soviet leader

Combined agency despatches

SOVIET PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev pledged Sunday to work for a new Soviet Union with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin and said he was prepared to accept independence for the three Baltic republics.

Mr. Gorbachev, in a television interview on the eve of a session of the country's supreme legislature, insisted he had no intention of resigning at a turning point in Soviet history following last month's coup which toppled him for three days.

"I will not resign now. It would be a mortal sin to do so at this difficult stage," he told interviewers from Soviet television and the U.S. network CNN. "I will not allow myself as a person or as a citizen to resign."

This week's session of the Congress of People's Deputies is expected to work out the new shape of the Soviet Union following the collapse of key institutions, precipitated by the coup bid.

It is also to discuss the independence declarations by the three Baltic republics — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. More than 30 Western countries have recognised their independence.

Mr. Gorbachev said he had met the leaders of 11 of the 15 Soviet republics and found much common ground with them.

His alliance with Mr. Yeltsin, who led resistance to the right-wing coup, was unbreakable, he said. "I think that if some people hope to drive a wedge between us, between Gorbachev and Yeltsin and try to drive them apart — and there will be such attempts — I think having had this bitter experience, we will not allow ourselves to be provoked. This is out of the question."

Meanwhile, Mr. Yeltsin met with Latvian leaders, who were expecting diplomatic recognition by the United States Monday. Mr. Yeltsin has been striking his own economic and military cooperation pacts with emerging inde-

pendent republics.

British Prime Minister John Major had a meeting with Mr. Gorbachev Sunday, and British sides noted both were important players as Moscow works out a new relationship to the republics.

The failure of the Aug. 18-21 coup involving many top Communist Party hardliners exploded the traditional structure — an unquestioned central government led by the party. Mr. Yeltsin gained stature for his resistance to the coup, and in its wake Mr. Gorbachev quit as Communist Party general secretary.

The Supreme Soviet legislature suspended the party's activities and created a commission to investigate the causes of the coup. It also called its own heavily communist makeup into question.

The 542-member legislature, chosen from the ranks of the 2,250-member Congress of People's Deputies, failed to take action to halt the coup conspiracy.

The Congress of People's Deputies has been called into a rare session Monday to elect a new Supreme Soviet, now that the Communist Party is no longer omnipotent.

It has been called on to elect a new vice-president and chairman of the Supreme Soviet to replace two coup plotters, as well as the overall Supreme Soviet membership.

Efforts to fill top government positions were being complicated by resentment over the rising power of Mr. Yeltsin and the Russian Federation since the failed coup.

Mr. Gorbachev asked Russian prime minister Ivan Silayev to lead an interim committee to nominate a new cabinet, and to run the government until the cabinet is chosen. Legislators said the republics were objecting because Mr. Silayev is Russian.

Monday's congress session could bring anything from Baltic freedom to an attempt to topple Mr. Gorbachev, legislators said.

Mr. Gorbachev plans to address the congress on Monday. The congress is legally empowered to take any action, including changing the constitution, and some legislators fear hardliners could try to oust Mr. Gorbachev in the special session.

Mr. Gorbachev, in a speech last week to the Supreme Soviet, threatened to resign if his goal of maintaining the union in some form fails. It is a political tactic that has saved him from tight spots in the past, but one he seemed to disavow Sunday.

Mr. Gorbachev also met Mr. Major on Sunday, the first Western leader to see the Kremlin chief since the collapse of the coup.

British officials said Mr. Major, who was also meeting Mr. Yeltsin and other republican leaders, pressed for quick reforms to prevent the Soviet economy sliding even further towards collapse.

A British official speaking on condition he not be named said Mr. Major had been careful to schedule equal time with both Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Gorbachev. "Obviously both are important, because the question we're really interested in is what will the relationship be between the centre and the most important republic," the official said.

In his half-hour meeting with Mr. Major, Mr. Gorbachev attributed the coup's failure to the success of six years of perestroika reforms in transforming Soviet society.

A British official said Mr. Gorbachev praised the army for not backing the coup and, while opposing any witch-hunt against the plotters, said he wanted justice to take its course.

Most of the leaders of the coup are now under arrest and charged with treason, which carries a possible death sentence.

Mr. Major and Mr. Gorbachev agreed that there could be no

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U.S. loan guarantee not definite, Jewish leader warns

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An American Jewish leader Sunday warned Israel not to assume that the United States would grant it guarantees for billions of dollars in loans to finance immigration.

"There should not be a sense of assurance," Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, told Reuters.

Ms. Cardin was meeting government ministers to discuss strategy for obtaining the aid. She said Israel would formally request the loan guarantees Wednesday.

Ms. Cardin would neither confirm nor deny a report in the Israeli daily Hadashot on Sunday. The paper said American Jewish leaders had been warned that President George Bush could link the guarantees to freezing Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

"Whether in fact that link will take place we'll have to wait and see," she said.

Israel plans to ask the United States for \$10 billion in loan guarantees over the next five years to absorb an expected one million Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The government Sunday began debating the 1992 budget which incorporated \$2 billion of U.S. loan guarantees before they were even requested.

"There has to be a recognition ... of the seriousness at this particular time ... we will need all of the information and data in order to make the best case possible," she said.

If Israel does not receive the guarantees it will have to take loans at much higher rates, stunting the economy's growth when it must expand to provide jobs for the influx.

The United States, trying to convene a Middle East peace conference in October, has said the settlements are among the biggest obstacles to peace efforts.

A building boom in the occupied territories orchestrated by hawkish Housing Minister Ariel Sharon since the U.S. peace drive began has further angered Washington.

More than 100,000 Jews live in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ms. Cardin said Israel's request for humanitarian aid should not be linked to the settlements. But she added:

"I think, even though there should not be any reference to other political issues, the general political climate from other perspectives will be there."

Ms. Cardin said the United States could condition the guarantees, as it has in the past, on Israeli assurances the money will not be used in the occupied territories.

But she did not comment on the possibility that U.S. aid to Israel freed other funds to settle Jews in the occupied territories. Israel already receives more

U.S. aid than any other country in the world at \$3 billion annually.

Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group accused Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia Sunday of undermining Middle East peace by smoothing the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The Syrian daily Al Baath, organ of the ruling Baath Party, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said Jewish newcomers would make Palestinians homeless.

Al Baath said immigration was a "real threat to Arabs because those immigrants will be an alternative to the Arabs living in the occupied Arab territories."

Al Baath said the most important agreement signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during a visit to Bulgaria last week was one stipulating that Bulgaria facilitate the immigration of Jews to Israel.

Tens of thousands of Soviet Jews are emigrating to Israel and transit through East European states because there are no direct flights from Moscow.

"This big immigration constitutes a big threat to the peace process and a violation of U.N. resolutions which stress the Arab identity of the Israeli-occupied lands," Al Baath said.

The PFLP statement called on "the friendly people of Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia and of all eastern Europe to press on their governments not to allow their

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An Israeli soldier inspects the bodies of two men shot dead in Gaza Saturday.

81 suspected members of underground group released; 18 face court trial

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government said Sunday it was releasing 81 members of an underground militant group linked to terrorist attack in Jordan.

Interior Minister Jawdat Shoul said members of the "Prophet Mohammad's Army," who were in possession of illegal weapons but were not directly connected with car-bombings and other attacks in the Kingdom would be freed as an act of mercy.

"We hope this chance given to them will allow them continue the course of their

life as responsible leaders motivated to maintain the country's stability," Mr. Shoul was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Shoul said 18 other members of the illegal group would be tried by the State Security Court in the next few days.

Most of the group's members were arrested in July. Authorities say they have taped confessions from some of them saying they planted car-bombs which injured a security official and a priest's

daughter earlier this year.

Several small-scale attacks on banks and other targets are also believed to have been carried out by members of the group.

The authorities said the militants were also planning to attack civilian, financial and security targets and had put the house of a Western ambassador under surveillance.

His Majesty King Hussein said last month that some of the accused had trained in Afghanistan alongside the Mujahideen but most of them were Jordanians.

U.S. officers see prisoners from Bubiyan incident

DOHA, Kuwait (Agencies) — U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) officials met with prisoners the Kuwaitis claim were infiltrating Bubiyan island, the UNIKOM commander said Sunday.

Major General Gunther Greindl said a three-man investigation team saw the prisoners Saturday in a prison in Kuwait City. He declined to reveal the nationality of the prisoners or their number.

The team also inspected two boats seized by the Kuwaitis. Gen. Greindl told journalists at UNIKOM headquarters in Doha, 20 kilometres west of Kuwait City.

He refused to disclose what

type of vessels they were or whether they contained weapons or ammunition.

The team, comprising high-ranking Irish, U.S. and Indian officers, was formed Saturday to investigate a shootout that took place Wednesday on Bubiyan involving Kuwaiti forces and alleged Iraqi infiltrators.

The Kuwaitis said they captured 46 Iraqi soldiers in civilian clothes as they were fleeing the island in their boats.

Western security sources said the Kuwaiti air forces engaged the vessels and sank at least one gunboat.

Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem said the Iraqis had brought women and children

with them so they could pass as fishermen.

Interior Ministry sources said they believed that the infiltrators were scavenging weapons and ammunition abandoned in the desert during Iraq's February withdrawal.

Gen. Greindl, an Austrian, described the action as the most serious breach of the Gulf war ceasefire.

"This is a very serious incident and the U.N. attaches the utmost attention and importance to it," said Gen. Greindl. "We will make every effort to investigate the matter."

He could not say how long the investigation would take. UNIKOM has 300 troops from

Israel allows Palestinian schools to reopen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Schools in the occupied Arab territories will be allowed to open Monday for the new academic year, but a West Bank university will stay closed according to Israeli spokesmen.

Before the summer recess most schools were open, though the Israeli occupation authorities have intermittently ordered them to close for varying periods where students were involved in clashes with soldiers.

All schools in the occupied territories were closed for a month during the Gulf war earlier this year.

"The goal is to get the schools out of the circle of violence," the spokesman for Israel's activities coordinator in the occupied territories said. He said the Israeli occupation authorities held meetings with Palestinian teachers and parents before making the decision.

On Friday the occupation authorities extended by three months the closure order on Bir Zeit University in Ramallah. The university has been closed for 44 consecutive months.

All the universities and colleges in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, have been closed for long periods during the almost four-year-old Palestinian uprising.

The spokesman said the extension was routine. "It will give us another three months to decide whether to open the university," he said.

Palestinian sources said there was nothing extraordinary about the opening of the schools. "I don't see it as a major event," a

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Ceasefire expected in W. Sahara as planned

RABAT (R) — The United Nations will proclaim a ceasefire in the Western Sahara Friday despite renewed fighting between Polisario guerrillas and Moroccan troops which threatens to wreck a peace plan.

"Sept. 6 remains the ceasefire date and from that date we will begin full implementation of the peace plan," United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said last week after talks with both sides in the dispute.

Successful implementation of the plan could crown Mr. Perez de Cuellar's final year in office but the road to a peaceful solution to the 15-year-old dispute is strewn with setbacks.

The latest was a flareup in fighting this month after a lull of nearly two years in which the United Nations, Morocco and the Polisario Front sought a diplomatic solution.

King Hassan of Morocco said last month that the timetable was months behind schedule and asked the U.N. to review the plan, which foresees a referendum in January to decide whether the territory gets independence or becomes part of Morocco.

How a U.N. identification commission will decide who

should vote in the referendum is the main hurdle to the plan, diplomats and Moroccan officials say.

"When the ceasefire comes you can expect a war of words, a kind of numbers game. The identification commission will be groping for the truth and there might be delays," a senior Western diplomat said.

Moroccan officials deny any suggestion that they want a delay and deny recent fighting around desert settlements in the former Spanish colony will stall the process.

The Moroccan army "has achieved its objectives and there is no reason why the ceasefire should not be effective as planned on Sept. 6," a Moroccan intelligence source told Reuters.

Morocco says it now controls the whole of the territory after the latest fighting against the Polisario, which has fought for independence since 1976.

The Moroccan army says it has taken control of Bir Lahjou, Tifariti and Mijek by driving Polisario guerrillas out of the three localities near the Algerian and Mauritanian borders.

A close aide of Col. Garang, former Foreign Minister Mansour Khaleel, said in remarks published in London Sunday that the three men had been arrested.

Revolt against Garang appears fizzling out

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Ten Sudanese rebel commanders have declared their support for John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), following reports that a mutiny against his leadership had been crushed.

They voiced their backing for Colonel Garang in a statement signed at Kapoeta, in southern Sudan's Equatoria state, on Aug. 31 and released to reporters in Nairobi Sunday.

Kapoeta is where the SPLA leadership is meeting at present to map out a strategy for proposed peace talks with the Khartoum government. No date has yet been set for the talks.

SPLA commanders Riek Mashaar Teny-Dhurgon, Lan Akol and Gordan Koenig Choi said in a statement Friday that Col. Garang had been toppled.

They accused him of a reign of terror, forcible recruitment and human rights abuses. But on Saturday Col. Garang's deputy, Captain Mario Muor, told a news conference in the Kenyan capital that his boss was still in control.

A close aide of Col. Garang, former Foreign Minister Mansour Khaleel, said in remarks published in London Sunday that the three men had been arrested.

"Commander John Garang remains the chairman and commander-in-chief and has the full support of 10 of the 13 members of the high command (of the SPLA)," said the commanders' statement.

"There will be no splits and civil war in the SPLA," the statement said, adding that efforts to end south Sudan's eight years of civil war would continue. Relief work for famine victims in the south would also continue, they added.

The SPLA has been fighting successive Khartoum governments in the south since 1983. The conflict has led to the death of an estimated 500,000 people, mostly civilians who succumbed to hunger and disease.

The war has worsened Sudan's chronic economic problems and denied Khartoum the chance to exploit the south's natural riches, particularly commercial oil finds.

The SPLA says it is fighting to create what it calls a new and secular Sudan and to end the domination of the country by the north.

The military leaders who rebelled against the leadership of Garang have been detained and

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Officials expect most Iraqis to leave Jordan soon, but flow continues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials are expecting a significant decline in the number of Iraqis present in Jordan because of the reopening of Iraqi schools in mid-September but recent statistics indicate that the expectations may not be well-founded.

"The number of Iraqis staying back in Jordan is on the positive side," said a senior official. "The number is going up steadily by 150 to 200 every day, as can be seen from the statistics of arrivals and departures over the past 10 to 15 days."

The official, who preferred anonymity, said around 26,000 Iraqi nationals remained in Jordan at the end of last week. "Earlier figures (given in mid-August) were not right," he said.

The same official had told the Jordan Times that 130,000 Iraqis remained in the Kingdom in mid-August. He explained this week that the figure "had not been realistically adjusted after taking into consideration departures by air and sea."

A senior official at the Iraqi embassy, however, expected "a majority of Iraqis" now present in Jordan to return home ahead of the school reopening in mid-September and the beginning of university terms in October.

Several Jordanian private schools said they were approached by Iraqi parents for admission for children. "In some cases we could accommodate them but it is really difficult for many schools to absorb Iraqi students if only because of the additional demand for seats by the children of expatriates who have returned from the Gulf," said an administrator at Amman school.

The Iraqi embassy official, who insisted on not being identified, said the embassy had no accurate statistics of Iraqis remaining in the Kingdom. "Not many of them contact the embassy and most of them take care of their own arrangements to obtain visas to travel abroad," he said.

New measures imposed by the Iraqis have managed to reduce the number of Iraqis travelling to Jordan. These measures include a 5,000 Iraqi dinar guarantee and strict monitoring of foreign currency controls.

The daily average of around 1,500 Iraqis coming to Jordan since mid-May declined to between 1,000 and 1,200 in August. But the average number of those who opt to stay back remains more or less same, according to officials.

Jordan is the only route available for Iraqis to leave Iraq in view of the closure of borders with Turkey and strict controls enforced at the border crossing with Iran.

While tourism officials say the high number of Iraqi visitors is beneficial in a broad sense, they also point out that most of the visitors are concentrated in and around Amman, posing an additional burden on the capital's infrastructure and basic services, already straining under the rise in demands created by the return of massive number of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

"Our tourist attractions and facilities at Petra, Jerash or Aqaba are not reporting any squeeze," said one tour operator. "There is a healthy demand at all these places but not to the extent of any strain which might reflect on the quality of services."

Most of the Iraqis now in Jordan are either on a short visit for reunions with family members living outside the region, to collect bank transfers from relatives abroad or to apply for visas to travel to Europe or North America.

Most Western missions have to go through a clearance process before issuing visas. As a result, many Iraqis stay back in Amman awaiting word on their visa applications.

An unknown number of Iraqis has sought asylum abroad through United Nations help, but in most cases they fail to meet the parameters set by the concerned U.N. agency.



Palestinians weary of the 44-month-old intifada are split over the U.S.-led peace process, but also know that both acceptance and rejection pose dangers to their cause

Palestinians under occupation weary of intifada, wary of parley

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMAARI REFUGEE CAMP — Palestinians, weary of the 44-month-old uprising, are split over the proposed Middle East peace conference. But they also realise that either way they turn, the path is fraught with danger.

Although the Palestinian leadership is expected to eventually agree to participate in the peace conference, proposed to be held in October, a debate is raging the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over the U.S. effort to convene the parley.

The Palestinians, the people most directly affected by a settlement of the Middle East conflict, are either opposed to the American effort or sceptical and apathetic at best.

"We want peace," said Ali Ahmad, sitting in a cafe smoking (pipe) in this refugee camp. "But it has to be a just peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," he said. The Resolution 242 and 338 demand Israeli withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for peace with the Arabs.

Most Palestinians fear the U.S.-led peace process is a trap that will be difficult to elude. Although Palestinians have been campaigning for a peace conference for some time, most are sceptical now, seeing the Arab World more weak and divided than ever.

Many Palestinians are disappointed and angry at Arab leaders for "selling out" the Palestinian cause. Their anger is mostly directed at Syria and its unconditional acceptance of the U.S. terms for a peace conference.

To a lesser degree many Palestinians expressed disappointment with Jordan's willingness to attend the conference, but many sympathised with what they described as the Kingdom's "unenviable" position.

Palestinian newspaper editorials last week attacked Arab countries for failing to hold a meeting so far to coordinate positions ahead of the October conference.

Even Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories who met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz over American intentions and question whether the administration is willing enough to pressure Israel.

"The credibility of the U.S. is jeopardised," said Hanan Ashrawi, who met several times with Mr. Baker during the secretary's six shuttles to the Middle East since March.

"If the U.S. cannot stop Israel from violating the law (by building settlements in the occupied territories), then what guarantees do we have that this process would be legitimate?"

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking a letter of assurance from the Americans that will document their interpretation of resolutions 242 and 338 endorsing the land-for-peace formula as well as Washington's agreement that Arab East Jerusalem is occupied territory.

Among the issues Palestinians want to be included in the letter of assurance is the legal reference point. In other words, what would happen if the conference reached a deadlock. Palestinians want international law rather than the existing balance of forces to be that reference. They have also suggested mandatory international arbitration as means of resolving any deadlock.

"There are several dangers to the peace process," said Dr. Ashrawi. "The U.S. stands to measure what is right by what Israel wants, not by what is just and legal," she added.

"Palestinians want peace but there is scepticism — healthy scepticism — within the Palestinian community," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Most Palestinians do not think the conference will lead to an equitable solution to their problem or fairly address their national aspirations. But they concede they do not have an alternative strategy.

"I do not think people are violent for or against the peace process," said journalist Daoud Kuttab. "I think the public in general is apathetic and have adopted a wait and see attitude."

But most Palestinians expressed strong reservations over the process and many said the Palestinian side should not attend the proposed conference.

"If I was Abu Ammar (PLO leader Yasser Arafat), I would absolutely refuse the terms the Israelis and Americans are trying to impose," said Ismail Khader, a resident of Jalazoun refugee camp in the West Bank. "Any peace process which does not mean returning East Jerusalem to the Arabs should be rejected," he said.

Asked whether he would still support the PLO if it decided to attend the peace conference, Mr. Khader said: "Yes."

Most of the Palestinians in the occupied territories — the most politicised among the entire five-million-strong Palestinian community — express opinions based on party affiliations. Three major political forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have openly rejected the peace process.

But while the unified national leadership of the uprising, which groups the major factions, has refrained from specifically condemning the call for a conference, they accuse the U.S. of having adopted Israel's line. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), meanwhile, have issued separate leaflets calling for an end to Palestinian meetings with Mr. Baker.

The dominant Gaza-based Islamic movements, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, are opposed in principle to the peace conference and to the entire concept of a two-state solution. In its latest communiqué, Hamas called the conference "a conference for selling land" and called on the PLO to stop meetings between Palestinians and Mr. Baker.

Islamic Jihad has threatened Dr. Ashrawi and other Palestinian leaders who met Mr. Baker.

"What was taken by force must be returned by force," said a young Palestinian in Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza, where the intifada began 44 months ago. "We will never get anything back by talking," he said, echoing the view of Hamas supporters.

Although the prevailing wisdom on the ground is that Palestinians will not be able to achieve their goals through military means, opponents of the process prefer to let other Arabs attend the peace talks while the Palestinian struggle continues.

"Palestinians are politically and economically on their knees," said a Western relief worker. "They are desperate."

The dilemma of having to recognise bitter realities against satisfying national aspirations has led to disarray among all echelons of Palestinian society, amid a continuously worsening economic situation.

"It is like having to choose the least of two evils which appear equally bad," said a Palestinian teacher.

Ould Taya favoured to win elections

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP) — Mauritania's military leader appears set to win the country's first multi-party elections in 31 years, a contest that mainly will pit Arabs against a subjugated black minority.

Maoulana Ould Sid Ahmad Ould Taya has succeeded in attracting to his new Republican Democratic Socialist Party, most political and tribal forces.

The party was registered Friday along with a marginal party led by a former cabinet minister. They were the first to register since political opposition was legalised in July, ending 31 years of one-party and military rule.

All political parties except Islamic groupings are permitted, reflecting the military's fear of fundamentalist movements and its close association with the Iraqi Baathist forces.

Fundamentalists joined Colonel Ould Taya's party in hopes of winning influence.

Nasserite Party leader Yahya Ould Kebe explained why they joined: "The military regime will be finished, but Ould Taya will maintain control... we cannot let him or any other forces coalesce with him use the moral and material means of the state against us."

A wing of the former Marxist movement joined tribal nomad leaders who flocked to register with Col. Ould Taya's group. Black opposition leaders have charged Col. Ould Taya has enticed their support with bribes of cars and cash, but they have provided no evidence.

The most important opposition party, a coalition of marxists, black Mauritanians including former slaves, and liberals, is expected to register next week.

The coalition, called the Democratic Front of Forces of Change, has lost credibility because it failed to win support for strikes and protests to force Col. Ould Taya to allow opposition groups to help draft a constitution which the government presented to a national referendum in July.

Westerners on quest for Noah's Ark kidnapped

ANKARA (R) — About 30 armed Kurdish rebels kidnapped five Westerners, some of them archaeologists seeking Noah's Ark in the mountains of south-eastern Turkey, a mini-bus driver said Sunday.

Police and troops mounted an intensive search in rugged Bingol province where three Americans, an Australian and a Briton were seized Friday.

"The driver, Bayram Ali Kocigit, told reporters four foreigners had hired him in Erzurum 180 km east to Dogubeyazit on the Iranian border. But they changed their minds and asked him to take him to Bingol southwest of Erzurum."

Mr. Kocigit, 33, said about 30 members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), including two women, had stopped traffic on the Bingol road and seized the foreigners.

He saw one foreigner being taken from another bus. His own passengers were told to put on warm clothing before being taken away. When the roadblock was lifted, Mr. Kocigit was able to drive on and report the incident at the nearest gendarmerie post.

The U.S. embassy named the missing Americans as Ronald Wyatt, Marvin Wilson and Richard Rives. A Turkish Interior Ministry official named the Briton as Gareth Jones Thomas.

PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan said in an interview published on Sunday foreigners would put their lives at risk if they visited the region without obtaining his group's permission.

Despite the manhunt, 60 of his fighters stopped a bus on the main Van-Istanbul road in the same province Saturday night. They harangued passengers before setting the vehicle on fire.

Anatolian news agency said security forces later killed two guerrillas suspected of involvement in the bus attack, 17 kilometres from the town of Solhan.

Mr. Ocalan told the Turkish weekly Nöktä Magazine he had ordered last month's release of 10 German tourists kidnapped without his permission by armed Kurds in eastern Turkey.

"It was against our principles. But in future the lives of foreigners who come to Kurdistan will be in danger," he said.

Mr. Ocalan said foreigners should get a written permit, "a simple piece of paper," from PKK offices abroad.

"If they do not go through our control they will be captured and asked to account," he said. "Sometimes we block roads and ask to see identities. We shall demand documents. This goes for tourists too."

Neither the PKK nor any other group has so far claimed responsibility for the latest kidnapping.

In Canberra, a spokesman for the Noah's Ark Research Foundation said two of the kidnapped men were archaeologists Allen Roberts of Australia and Ron Wyatt of the United States.

Spokesman John McNicol said the last message received from the pair was sent from Ankara Wednesday before they left for the Mount Ararat range in eastern Turkey.

A 1948 earthquake in the mountains revealed the fossilised remains of a boat which some scientists identified as Noah's Ark.

On an earlier trip, Mr. Roberts, 59, found what appeared to be fossilised gopherwood matching Biblical accounts. He was returning to make further excavations, Mr. McNicol said.

The Americans and the Australian were travelling in the same mini-van when they were stopped at a roadblock near Kariwa town, diplomats said. The Briton, apparently not part of their group, was taken from a bus.

The PKK has been fighting a seven-year-old independence campaign for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds in 13 southeastern provinces, which are under emergency rule.

The group had not previously kidnapped foreigners in its struggle, in which more than 3,300 people have been killed.

Lebanon, Syria sign mutual defence pact

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon and Syria signed a security pact Sunday and Syria's defence minister said it gave Damascus the right to fight any Israeli attack on its neighbour.

The agreement was signed by Lebanese Defence Minister Michel Murr, Interior Minister Sami Al Khateib and their Syrian counterpart Mustafa Tlas and Mohammad Harba.

"This agreement gives us (Syria) the right to prevent any military action against Lebanon even if it is done by Israel and it gives Lebanon the same right," Major-General Tlas told reporters.

He said the security pact would prevent anyone in Syria from plotting against Lebanon and vice versa. The agreement has to be passed by the parliaments of each country before taking effect.

Diplomats forecast the security pact would anger Israel, which holds a border strip in South Lebanon and has launched 16 air strikes on guerrilla targets in Lebanon so far this year.

They said the agreement was largely a formality because Syria already has 40,000 troops in Lebanon and has pledged to do everything in its power to support President Elias Hrawi's government of national reconciliation.

The last major Syrian-Israeli battle was during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Israel has air superiority over most of Lebanon despite the Syrian army presence in two thirds of the country.

The security pact is part of a coordination and cooperation treaty between both countries which took effect on June 3 and was denounced by Syria "swallowing" its neighbour.

Israel responded to that treaty by launching three air raids on Palestinian bases in Lebanon. They included one of the fiercest air strikes since the invasion of 1982.

Syria and Lebanon say the treaties give Damascus and Beirut closer ties but also recognise each country's sovereignty.

Mr. Murr told Voice of Lebanon radio that Sunday's agreement would allow the Lebanese and Syrian security services to coordinate more closely.

"I consider this agreement an important step in brotherly relations linking the two countries," the minister added.

He declined to give further details after the signing in the Lebanese town of Chelwan, 49 kilometres east of Beirut.

Last October, Syrian troops spearheaded the drive which led to the collapse of rebel General Michel Aoun's campaign against President Hrawi's government.

This action enabled the Lebanese government to extend its authority, effectively ending the power of most private militia which controlled large parts of Lebanon.

Mr. Murr told reporters the new pact "lays the groundwork and frameworks for cooperation between various security and police departments in the two countries."

He said the full text of the pact would be formally announced after its future ratification by the Supreme Council of the Treaty of Brotherhood, which is made up of the presidents, prime ministers and parliament speakers of the two countries.

"I want to assure cynics in Lebanon that there is nothing to fear from this pact on Lebanon's sovereignty," Mr. Murr said.

He was obviously referring to right-wing Christians who publicly voiced fear of a Syrian hegemony.

Hardly two hours after the security pact was signed at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT), a pair of Israeli jet fighters crashed the sound barrier over Beirut, sending sonic booms reverberating through the Lebanese capital.

Israel has long been asserting its control of Lebanon's air space by sending its warplanes on routine reconnaissance flights or bombing sorties against targets unopposed.

Jibril ready for inquiry into terrorist charges

BEIRUT (AP) — A Palestinian dissident, viewed by the West as a ruthless extremist, said Saturday he would welcome an international probe into his activities.

Speaking in an interview with Voice of Lebanon, Ahmad Jibril, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), said:

"I have offered in the past and I'm still willing at present to face a neutral committee of investigation in Switzerland to probe all terrorist attacks attributed to me or my group."

Captain Jibril first offered to appear before such a panel after his implication in the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988. All 259 people aboard Flight 103 and 11 people on the ground were killed.

However, more recent findings linked the attack to the Libyan secret service.

"We had to put up with that accusation for two years until finally a U.S.-British investigating committee published a report that absolved us," Capt. Jibril said.

Voice of Lebanon said Capt. Jibril was interviewed at his headquarters in Damascus, but did not say when.

Capt. Jibril said that his group was never involved in any terrorist attack in the West.

"We have only two members serving jail terms in Germany for trying to smuggle arms concealed in automobiles and destined for (the Israeli ports of) Haifa and Ashdod two years ago," he said.

"That is not terrorism. That is one form of the legitimate armed struggle to liberate our occupied territories," Capt. Jibril said.

He accused U.S., British and French intelligence services of inciting the Western media to portray him as a terrorist.

He boasted that the PFLP-GC was the first to introduce suicide attacks in the Middle East in 1974, when three of his guerrillas crossed the Lebanese border into the Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona and engaged Israeli soldiers in a shootout.

Eighteen Israelis were killed in that attack.

"The enemy suffered plenty of casualties... our men finally detonated explosives strapped around their waists when they ran out of ammunition, blowing themselves to death to avoid being captured," Capt. Jibril said.

That was 11 years before the notorious suicide bombing of the U.S. marine base and the French paratroopers' headquarters in Beirut on Oct. 23, 1983. At least 241 American servicemen and 58 French paratroopers were killed.

The PFLP-GC matched international headlines when one of its guerrillas flew a motorised hang glider into an Israeli army bus on Nov. 25, 1987, and killed six Israeli troops before he was gunned down.

Capt. Jibril, a former Syrian army officer, was expelled from the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1983, two years after Syrian-backed militants tried to oust PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
1803 Les Grandes Batailles de l'histoire
1900 News in French
1915 Weekly Sports Magazine
1930 News in Hebrew
2030 News in Arabic
2030 Surgical Spirit
2110 Murder she wrote
2200 News in English
2230 Over My Dead Body

PRAYER TIMES
06:46 Fajr
08:06 (Sunrise) Duha
12:25 Dhuhr
16:11 Asr
19:05 Maghrib
19:25 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 637783
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622646
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

623541 Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 653326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 676991

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be southerly moderate to strong. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 16 / 28
Aqaba 22 / 35
Dumana 15 / 34
Jordan Valley 23 / 36
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Adel Dabbous 612177
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi 778959
Dr. Mohammad Al Shawish 638878
Dr. Hussein Hadad 731267
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778334
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Selam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmizani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Registries 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khad Maternity, J. Amn 644412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 62262
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmizani 664171/4
Shmizani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Hussein Hospital 667221/9
The Islamic, Abadi 661271/7
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 771013/5
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/30
Anal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900590
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

FOR THE TRAVELLER
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ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
09:00 Doha, Doha (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran (RJ)
10:40 Larana (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Doha (RJ)
12:00 Montreal New York (RJ)
12:00 Istanbul (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Moscow (RJ)
16:30 Moscow (RJ)
19:00 Amsterdam, Montreal (RJ)
19:00 Doha (RJ)
21:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
14:05 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
22:00 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in Lira per kg.
Apples 600 / 550
Apricots 700 / 600
Bananas 500 / 450
Bananas (pink) 450 / 400
Beans 450 / 300
Cabbage 150 / 100
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 150
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 240 / 180
Garlic 500 / 300
Grapes 700 / 600
Grapes (green) 250 / 220
Lemon (green) 300 / 200
Lemon (yellow) 300 / 200
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 400 / 300
Onion (dry) 200 / 150
Onion (wet) 200 / 150
Oranges 400 / 350
Peaches 200 / 150
Pears 300 / 200
Pepper (hot) 200 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 400 / 300
Potatoes 300 / 200
Sage 600 / 500
Sweet melon 200 / 150
Tomatoes 150 / 100
Watermelon 150 / 40

Handwritten signature: *التاسع*

Israel's settlement policy violates U.N. resolutions — official

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel's drive to build more settlements in the occupied Arab territories is designed to create new realities on the ground and are in total violation of U.N. resolutions and in disregard to international laws and regulations, according to Payez Jaber, secretary general of the Amman-based Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs.

In a statement Saturday, Mr. Jaber said that only the United States was capable of putting an end to Israel's infringements on international law and stopping its expansionist programmes in the occupied Arab territories.

Recent statistics show that 63 per cent of the lands of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has been seized by the Israeli authorities for the purpose of erecting settlements, Mr. Jaber said.

The statistics also show that 50,000 Jewish settlers will be

housed in 3,000 housing units by 1992, raising to 200,000 the total number of Jews settled on Arab land, Mr. Jaber added.

The 55 per cent Arab population of Arab Jerusalem will be overwhelmed by the settlement of 100,000 Jewish settlers in the coming year should the Israeli settlement programme go ahead unchecked, warned Mr. Jaber.

Israel's Housing Minister Ariel Sharon told parliament last week that he wanted to ensure that there are a million Jews in the Jerusalem area by connecting the Holy City with the largest West Bank settlements.

His statement drew strong criticism from Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour who said Friday that the Israeli settlement plans undermined the Middle East peace process. Dr. Ensour said that Mr. Sharon's programme was bound to bring about a change in the demographic balance of the occupied territories.

Compromise reached on archaeological site

By Maha Adad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An archaeological site falling in the path of the new Amman-Jerash road will be buried under the road instead of being destroyed in the process of constructing it, as initially decided, according to officials at the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR).

The site, believed to be the remaining part of a Roman watchtower built in the second century A.D., lies 800 metres north of the Zarqa River bridge and was uncovered during works at the new Jerash road.

"We were pleased when ACOR and the Ministry of Public Works coordinated for a period, when the construction of the road was halted, so that full documentation of the site was made," said Dr. Gaetano Palmbo, the archaeological consultant for the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) project between ACOR and the Department of Antiquities, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

"We now have photographic documentation and a complete record of the measurements of the remaining parts of this watchtower," he said, adding that it will be covered starting Aug. 31.

Safwan Al Tal, director general of the Department of Antiquities, said that the monument in its present state was not as significant as to necessitate road diversion.

"The monument was at one point a very important monument but as it stands today it

has not retained much of its original shape," Mr. Al Tal said.

Dr. Palmbo said that over the past thirty years the monument has been damaged in different ways by three modern interventions in the area.

"The existing Jerash road built in 1960 already covers a substantial part of the monument. Then the Faisal road, a side road leading to the Faisal Nursery, damaged another part of the monument. Then came the addition of the electric poles in 1970. Now only 25 per cent of it remains undamaged and this will now be covered by the road," Dr. Palmbo said.

The monument appears to have been disturbed in antiquity as well. While undergoing the emergency excavation we were granted time for we found that some of the walls had been dismantled and reused in a previous period," he said.

"We found many items in the monument but none of them indicates domesticity. In one of the five intact rooms excavated, we found a whole pot-dating to the second century A.D. as well as other fragments of pottery dating back to the same period, but we found nothing that indicates that someone actually lived in the monument at any time. This is what confirms our theory that the monument must have been a watchtower to control access to Philadelphia, as Amman used to be known," Dr. Palmbo said.

The monument is one of over 30,000 unexcavated archaeological sites in the Kingdom.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday cuts the ribbon at the inauguration ceremony for the Greek Orthodox Church in Sweifish (Petra photo)

Regent inaugurates church

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday inaugurated the Greek Orthodox Church that was built in Sweifish in 1984.

After cutting the ribbon and unveiling a commemorative plaque, the Regent attended a mass by Greek Orthodox Patriarch Kyrios Deodoros assisted by Greek Orthodox priests.

Father Constantine Karmash of the Greek Orthodox commun-

ity delivered an address in which he expressed the Christian community's appreciation for the Royal patronage of the ceremony and for Prince Hassan's continued drive to promote coexistence between Muslims and Christians in the Kingdom.

He said Christians enjoy absolute freedom and continue to co-exist alongside Muslims without any discrimination.

Following the ceremony, Prince Hassan attended a recep-

tion held by the Orthodox Church on the occasion.

Heads of Christian denominations, Parliament members and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions attended the ceremony. Also attending was former Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia and his wife.

The church, built in the ancient Byzantine style, seats 700 worshippers and is adjoined by a seminary school.

Abbadi says health budget enough to meet all demands

ZARQA (Petra) — Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi Sunday said the health situation in Jordan was good and praised the government's support for the health sector.

Dr. Abbadi added that the ministry's budget was sufficient to meet all the requirements and demands.

During an inspection tour of the health facilities in Zarqa Governorate, Dr. Abbadi said the situation in Zarqa was below the required levels as far as hospital beds were concerned.

He stressed that the ministry would implement the new Zarqa Hospital project to ease pressure on the government hospital in Zarqa.

The minister started his tour by a visit to Musherfeh comprehensive health centre which was established at a cost of JD 270,000 to provide health services to some 60,000 people. The centre is not functioning because of lack of electricity.

Later the minister visited

Rafideh Islamic Nursing College and was briefed by its principal on its activities and the number of students attending it. He also discussed with the college principal issues pertaining to developing methods of instruction, the problems facing students and proposed solutions.

The minister then visited the proposed site for Zarqa Hospital, which the government will set up on 453 dunams, and inspected the Russeifa Health Centre, which receives 4,000 patients monthly.

The minister also opened Al Sukhneih comprehensive health centre, which was constructed at a cost of JD 98,000 to cater for 17,000 cases.

Dr. Abbadi then visited Al Hashimieh, where he inaugurated a health centre which receives 60 patients a day. The centre provides primary health care services, including maternal and child health care.

The minister's inspection tour also included Khirbet Al Samra water purification plant, Dulci-

health centre, Zarqa Municipality and Zarqa Governorate, where he met with mayors and government department heads and discussed with them the health situation in their areas.

Zarqa Governor, Mohammad Hussein Shobaki welcomed the minister and noted that the governorate had a great number of health centres which are well distributed in the various cities, towns, and villages in the governorate.

The governor said that Birein, Azraq and Dulciil needed special consideration with a view to opening sufficient number of health centres. Mr. Shobaki also suggested that the health centres work around the clock.

Zarqa Health Department Director Abdul Aziz Shraideh said that health services were distributed well in the governorate, noting that the health facilities in the governorate provide services to some 220,000 people annually.

Government committed to find work for VTC graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is committed to find work for all the graduates of the vocational training centres in the country who will gradually take the place of non-Jordanians, according to Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

"The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will soon organise training courses in hotel management and nursing and the graduates from universities, community colleges and schools are advised to join these courses if they wish to get employment and become self-supportive," said the minister in an address at a ceremony Sunday for the graduation of 650 trainees from four different training centres.

Mr. Dughmi urged the government to cancel permits given to non-Jordanians working in the agricultural sector. He said that the VTC would be helping job-seekers to embark on farming and return to the land and become productive citizens.

The minister urged all able-bodied persons to join the training courses in different fields so as to be able to get employment which the government will ensure for the graduates.

Mr. Dughmi said that teams from the Labour Ministry would soon organise field trips to various population centres in the governorates to promote the idea of a national plan of ending the unemployment problem in Jordan. The plan entails providing

government financing for income-generating projects benefiting family heads as well as graduates of universities and community colleges.

VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan said that VTC centres in Jordan run three-year training courses for apprentices and three-month courses for job-seekers in

24 different trades. He said that 1,500 trainees are now trained in weaving, elches making, shoemaking, cutting marble stones, brick making, tiling, hotel management and catering.

He said that in implementation of Royal directives, the VTC was training 40 per cent more people than those trained in 1990.

Banking official says bulk of Petra Bank losses caused by dubious, illegal activities

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A major part of the "losses" that led to the collapse of Petra Bank stemmed from "dubious, unorthodox, unsubstantiated and illegal activities" in violation of the banking regulations of Jordan, a senior banking executive testified in court Sunday.

Financing a fishing farm in Malaysia, leasing of a Panamanian ship and guaranteeing loans to paupers were some of Petra Bank operations under the management of Ahmad Chalabi, a military court was told by Maher Waked, who served as member of an experts committee which investigated the biggest scandal to hit Jordanian banking.

Dr. Waked estimated that losses from the foreign operations of Petra Bank could be between \$150 million and \$200 million — accounting for more than half of the total expected losses suffered by the bank, which was taken over from the Chalabi management by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in August 1989.

According to Dr. Waked, the "losses" of Petra Bank cannot be classified as simple business losses since they were incurred in transactions which violated Jordanian regulations and, in most cases, the funds ended up with institutions owned or controlled by Mr. Chalabi or any of his family members outside Jordan.

Presenting his findings related to 28 cases to the court,

Dr. Waked, executive director of the Bank of Jordan, said in many cases "no other senior official in Petra Bank but Chalabi himself knew of the transactions, which were concluded over the telephone but with very little documentary support."

The Chalabi management of Petra Bank also encouraged Jordanians to maintain foreign currency accounts through operations undertaken by an Amman representative office of the Petra Banking Corporation, Washington, D.C., in violation of the foreign currency regulations set by the Central Bank of Jordan, Dr. Waked said.

According to Dr. Waked, the Chalabi management also cooperated with "known international swindlers and guaranteed the loans of non-solvent persons — in some cases nonexistent persons — and ended up settling the loans." He cited several cases in court, including dealings with now-defunct Al Mashrek Bank of Lebanon at a time when it was known very well that the Lebanese bank had collapsed.

"Most of the so-called investment projects and loss-making ventures of Petra Bank came in open violation of Jordanian banking regulations which prohibit such undertakings," Dr. Waked said.

While the losses were recorded as such and absorbed by Petra Bank books, most of the funds somehow or another ended up with other banking institutions owned or controlled by Mr. Chalabi, Dr.

Waked said.

For instance, he said, Petra Bank used to guarantee loans taken by the Beirut-based Middle East Banking Company (MEBCO), which was controlled by Mr. Chalabi. "In most cases, Petra Bank settled the loans since it was legally bound under the guarantee it furnished, but the beneficiary in the entire deal remained MEBCO," he said.

Many transactions were channelled through the Petra Banking Corporation in the U.S. and funds to support such activities came from Petra Bank Jordan, he said.

Well into the investigations into the scandal of Petra Bank, which was placed under liquidation in May last year, officials have said that Petra Bank was having liquidity problems in Jordan and the Chalabi management used to take loans from the Central Bank of Jordan and pumped them outside to support foreign operations.

Dr. Waked, whose almost four-hour testimony on Sunday covered 13 cases, continues the presentation of his findings Tuesday before being cross-examined.

Dr. Waked is the third witness to appear before the military court, which is trying all Petra Bank cases involving charges of fraud, embezzlement and speculation with the Jordanian currency.

Mr. Chalabi and several other key defendants — who remain outside the country and have refused to respond to summons to appear in court — are being tried in absentia.

Jordan, Morocco discuss economic, trade cooperation

CASABLANCA (J.T.) — Jordan and Morocco have reached common understanding on the need to promote economic and trade cooperation between them and, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Ibrahim Badran, a delegation of Moroccan businessmen will soon pay a visit to Jordan to pave the ground for such cooperation.

Dr. Badran, who attended a ceremony here for the opening of the Jordanian industrial fair, said that the delegation would examine the Jordanian market and hold talks with Jordanian businessmen on trade exchanges. Dr. Badran met officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in

Casablanca to discuss bilateral cooperation in trade and industry. According to Jordan News Agency, Petra, both sides underlined the need to increase the volume of trade exchanges.

The idea of creating a joint chamber of trade and industry to coordinate work between businessmen in the two countries and the creation of a joint committee to follow up the implementation of bilateral agreements were discussed by the two sides, said Dr. Badran.

He said that the Jordanian and Moroccan sides had displayed interest in removing all customs obstacles so as to facilitate the flow of Jordanian and Moroccan products into each other's mar-

kets. According to the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC), which organised the fair, 80 Jordanian firms are taking part in the nine-day fair which will be selling at least JD 1.2 million worth of products.

At the fair, which was opened Saturday evening here, Jordanian firms are displaying engineering, chemical, construction, agricultural and industrial products along with home appliances and carpet and leather commodities. The fair can sell directly to the public or to Moroccan firms.

The fair, the second of its kind to be held in Morocco, is in implementation of a 1978 Jordanian-Moroccan agreement.

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TIME TO SPEAK OUT

On September 9, the U.S. Congress will vote on awarding Israel \$10 billion which will be used to illegally build new settlements on Palestinian land. This continued theft of Arab land violates Palestinian human rights, international law and U.N. resolutions. If you are Jordanian, Arab-American, American or know someone in the U.S. who opposes these illegal acts we will provide you with addresses and fax numbers of members of the Congress and Senate. It is our duty to speak out against continued U.S. aid to Israel and illegal Israeli settlements on Arab lands. In the meantime, everyone is urged to write or fax a letter of protest to the U.S. representative in the United Nations and Secretary of State, James Baker.

Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering
U.S. Mission to the U.N.
799 U.N. Plaza
N.Y., N.Y. 10017 U.S.A.
(Fax #: 212-415-4443)

Secretary of State James Baker
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20520 U.S.A.
Phone: 202-647-4910

For those who do not have access to a fax machine we will be happy to fax your messages at cost. For more information or assistance please call the ADC (Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee) office after 4:00 p.m.
Tel: 693263 / 699805

Volunteers to help in this campaign are welcomed to Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Amman Chapter.



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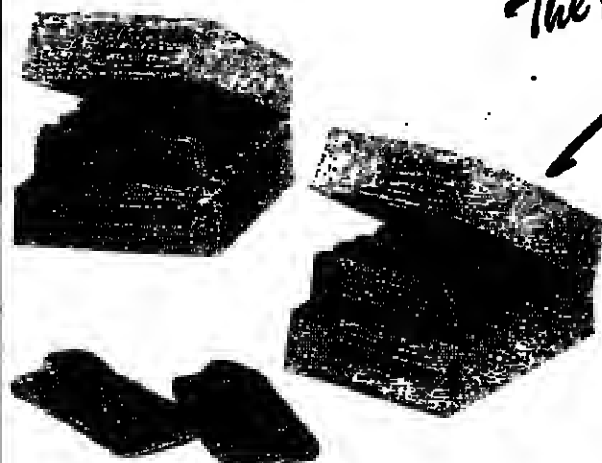
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Haunting picture

WHAT COULD easily haunt responsible leaders in the world today is the question of whether the war in Croatia between Serbs and Croats is a preview of what may occur in the Soviet Union in the wake of its disintegration on ethnic and nationality grounds. It will be recalled that the inter-ethnic armed conflict in Yugoslavia erupted on the heels of the collapse of the federal order in the country and the upsurge of nationalism within its provinces. What exacerbates the problem in the USSR and raises the stakes there is the presence of nuclear weapons in so many Soviet republics that may fall under the control of nationalist or ethnic forces that no longer have allegiance to the command centres in Moscow. Some of these republics bordering Europe and China are said to possess more nuclear warheads than France or the United Kingdom. So, as the traditional nuclear and thermo-nuclear war scenario between Washington and Moscow recedes, it is being fast replaced by even worse scenarios involving the proliferation of the possibilities for the resort to mass destructive weapons.

In other words, the unleashing of the forces of nationalism on the ashes of the destruction of the federal system of government in the Soviet Union has brought to the world new dangers hitherto unimagined. With the unthinkable probably starting to unfold in the Soviet empire, it is appropriate to take stock of the fast-moving developments in the Eastern bloc countries and to think of the potential dangers associated with the rise of 19th century nationalism once again on the European continent. Lest the world forget, it was ultra nationalism that led mankind into two world wars. Hence all the rejoicing in the West about the dismantling of the Soviet order may prove to be premature. In retrospect, the dangers posed by communism during its heydays could be dwarfed in comparison with the new threats emerging from the rebirth of European nationalism. The Soviet people had a taste of what to expect when the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians became locked in bloody clashes over territory and national differences. Even Ukrainians became angry by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's recent pronouncements regarding border rectifications between the two largest republics in the Soviet Union. If two of the most developed and sophisticated entities in the USSR become engaged in bloody encounters over territory, we can imagine what may happen elsewhere in the country, especially between nationalities that have no similar religious or social backgrounds.

All those forces which aided and abetted the disfiguration of the Soviet order should have considered the full ramifications and impact of their actions. It is much easier to destroy than to build, particularly when what may ensue could be worse than the original structure. Instead of instigating or propelling the fast disintegration of the Soviet order, a more orderly reformation of the old system may have been the lesser of two evils. Had the Western capitals, for example, lent more meaningful assistance to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the first place instead of holding back until the country was on the verge of total collapse, much of the damage ensuing from the rapid transformations there could have been better controlled and managed. As it turned out, the West seems to have overplayed its hand and set in motion new tendencies that might not be so easily controlled.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPITE the looming dangers for the Arab World and the need for the Arabs to unify their stand with regard to the coming peace conference, the Arab masses continue to see disarray in Arab ranks. Al Ra'i Arabic daily editorialised Sunday. The paper said that this particular stage required from the Arabs to show solidarity and to concert their efforts to serve the common interest, but the Arab masses are disappointed that nothing of this kind is happening. Should this present state of affairs persist, the Arabs would be facing more challenges and more sufferings, the paper warned. It said that perhaps the Arab people in this Kingdom feel more than any others the dire need for solidarity and joint action to end the suffering of the non-Kuwaiti Arabs being evicted from Kuwait and to deal with the acts of piracy being exercised as a kind of pressure on Jordan. The paper said such pressures are being exercised on Jordan to force it to change its national stand and give up its principles. But, the paper said, the Arab masses, despite the present hardships realise the need to show unity and to continue to resist the pressure. The paper said that national unity in Jordan, which is struggling to offset the consequence of the Gulf crisis, serves as the best and most effective tool in confronting the pressure and the challenges.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Monday the return of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates to the Kingdom should not be viewed only as a burden to the national economy but rather a blessing as well. Fahd Al Faneh said that the influx of expatriates has two faces, one negative and the other positive. He said that the expatriates will cause a 12 per cent increase in the number of people in Jordan placing additional pressure on public services schools and social and economic sectors. But the writer noted that the expatriates who have been working for decades abroad have acquired extensive experience and are considered the elite of the educated and skilled workers of Jordan and are bound to enrich the country with new blood to be injected in the veins of society. The writer said that Israel is paying \$100,000 for each settler to come to the occupied Palestinian land because of the great need absorbing the newcomers. In Jordan, he noted, many of the expatriates own their own homes, and they brought money to be invested in new projects. As to those seeking jobs, they would sooner or later be absorbed by the new projects to be created by the newcomers and other investors, said the writer. He said we should not deny the arrival of these expatriates on the account of overload services because there is another positive face to this issue.

Weekly Political Pulse

Waiting for the age of enlightenment

AS MOSCOW has been effectively decapitated as a superpower and can act only under the tutelage of the Western capitals, I see no reason or justification to continue contemplating the convening of the projected peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict under the joint chairmanship of Washington and Moscow. There is little or nothing that Moscow can contribute now to the proposed peace parley and its participation therein is clearly redundant. This could be the first impact of the elimination of the Soviet Union as a superpower. But the chain reactions to the dramatic changes in the role and prestige of the USSR which once shook the world with its might is not limited to the upcoming peace talks between Israel and the concerned Arab parties.

There is no way to avoid reflecting the eventual transformations within the Soviet Union in particular and the Warsaw Pact countries in general in the international political structures, especially the United Nations. What possible justification can there be now to continue according Moscow a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council for example? The whole political framework behind the existing Security Council of the international organisation is clearly no longer valid. Realism would dictate the restructuring of this main U.N. organ entrusted with the task of preserving international peace and security on new basis reflecting the rapid changes on the international arena. Would it not be more sensible to have a list of permanent members composed of one Latin American country, say Brazil, one African country, say Nigeria, one Asian say India. To such a

list one can add China, Japan, a European country, Germany for example and finally the U.S. no less than 14 non-permanent members would be elected for a two-year term.

Obviously such a change would require the introduction of drastic amendments to the U.N. Charter. As the charter has not undergone any review since its adoption some 46 years ago, it is high time that an effort be made to hold such a review conference with a view to incorporating the fundamental changes in the world. But there is no sense in denying the substantive metamorphosis that occurred in the last few weeks. In order for the existing international structures to continue serving mankind, they would have to take into consideration the shifting in the global sands and incorporate their impacts into new international edifices.

In this context, history will credit Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for the profound changes that have hit the surface of the world in recent months. He will surely go down in history as the Soviet leader that has launched the dismemberment of his country and its transformation from a superpower into a third rate power bedeviled with untold economic woes and political instability. Yet with all fairness to the man, what transpired was inevitable for his country was an anachronistic empire that was bound to disintegrate sooner or later. History will be a better judge of him when the chain reactions to his policies are better gauged and calculated and in proper historical perspective. Meanwhile, the world will have to adjust to the new emerging

centres of power, with Moscow effectively checked out as a member of the elitist club that once shaped the events and political course of the globe.

What all these developments boil down to, from the Arab point of view, is that Washington calls most if not all the shots in the world of today unless and until another global centre or centres of power reemerge from the ashes of the old global power structures.

The month of August has been eventful for the last few years and brought to the world many surprises. Who knows what August of 1992 will bring to the world? There is a vacuum now in the new international order created by the disappearance of Moscow as a superpower and it is only natural and logical that this vacuum be filled somehow somewhere.

The Arab World itself has been integrating in a way similar to disfiguration and mutilation occurring in the USSR. The future for the Arab countries would continue to look bleak unless and until a new era of enlightenment, both political and intellectual, dawns on it and brings with it the rebirth of a contemporary form of Arab nationalism. But this is at best a long shot. Meanwhile, the individual Arab states will continue to be propelled by their own provincial interests in the absence of the cohesive elements of Arab nationalism. Damage control or crisis management would dominate Arab thinking for some time to come until a new Arab renaissance emerges. Meanwhile the existing situation is bound to have negative impact on the Arab current causes, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sandinistas play with stacked deck

By Julie Light

MANAGUA — As the dust settles from the Sandinistas' first party congress, it is clear that many activists' expectations for sweeping changes remain frustrated. Back-room politics won out over internal democracy at the three-day meeting held July 19-21. But the congress was not a total loss for the party's radical reformers, who say they did make significant inroads and learned some important lessons for future organising.

The congress grew out of the Sandinistas' efforts to regroup from their unexpected defeat at the polls a year and a half ago. In recent months internal battles have binged on how much and how fast to democratise the party and how much it should cooperate with moderates in the Chamorro government.

In a report to the congress that took a hard look at their 10-year rule, the members of the Sandinista National Directorate said that wartime pressures had caused the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN) to become authoritarian and bureaucratic. They admitted that party leaders were often arrogant, condoning corruption and ignoring complaints from below. Both the leadership and the rank and file had ostensibly agreed that the congress should focus on making the front more open and democratic. But top Sandinistas lobbied delegates hard to convince them to close ranks behind the National Directorate in the name of unity.

In a closed meeting with the 600 delegates the day before the congress officially opened, top party leaders won approval for a controversial proposal that the National Directorate be voted on as a single slate, with no other candidates allowed. This move sparked charges that a fix was in before the proceedings even began.

"We do not agree with the argument that voting for party leaders individually would have divided the front," insisted Sandinista Youth leader Henry Petre. "The crisis in the country and inside the Sandinista Front will always exist."

For many rank and fileers the litmus test on how far Sandinistas were willing to democratise was whether they would allow "heads to roll" in the National Directorate. Particular targets of this sentiment were Bayardo Arce, who ran the party mass organisations during the Sandinista administration, and Jaime Wheelock, who was in charge of agrarian reform. (The front's post-election self-criticism has hinged on its top-down leadership style and on certain agrarian policies that alienated the rural population and helped build the contras' social base). Even many delegates who supported all the candidates on the official slate argued that it was still important to evaluate each leader individually.

Sandinista sources say the directorate also extracted a promise from members of the Sandinista Assembly not to run against them on opposing slates, thereby making their re-election a sure thing. Rank-and-file efforts to draft former Health Minister Dora Maria Téllez onto the official slate were defeated, despite strong sentiment that a woman should be included in the top leadership.

"The women's movement did not have the necessary force to win this round," says Managua delegate Gloria Maria Hernández. She notes, however, that newly elected Sandinista Secretary General Daniel Ortega was forced in his acceptance speech to recognise the strength of grass-roots support for Ms. Téllez's candidacy. And she believes that "the women's movement did manage to raise the consciousness of a few men within the party and the National Directorate."

Members of the National Directorate also lobbied in support of their favoured candidates for the 98-member Sandinista Assembly. Nonetheless, delegates did cause a minor shake-up, booting out several members of the old guard and voting in a fair amount of new blood in mid-level leadership posts. Union leaders and members of the Sandinista Youth are strongly represented, but only 18 women were elected to the assembly. Meanwhile, former Vice President Sergio Ramírez and former Cabinet Minister René Núñez joined the seven remaining National Directorate members. Gen. Humberto Ortega resigned his seat on the directorate immediately following the election because as head of the army he cannot serve in party leadership.

After three days of paragraph-by-paragraph debate, delegates ratified a new party platform and bylaws. The Sandinistas have seemingly empowered the grass roots by making the rank-and-file congress the FSLN's highest ruling body, followed by the newly elected Sandinista Assembly and the National Directorate. However, delegates extended the period until the next party congress from three years to four. They also reduced the number of assembly meetings to twice a year and, at the suggestion of a member of the National Directorate, limited the number of grass-roots delegates who will participate in the next congress. Day to day

policy-making remains in the hands of the nine-member directorate.

A clause in the Sandinista bylaws that would have prohibited party members from criticising FSLN policy outside the organisation was struck down as undemocratic and unconstitutional. But party members are barred from expressing dissent inside the Sandinista Front once a policy is set.

Rank-and-file reformers say they plan, nonetheless, to fight to protect the space for debate and dissent within the front. "Whether or not the space exists we have to carve it out," says Sandinista Youth leader Petrie. "If the Sandinista Front wants what is best for it, it should be open to the honest and critical opinions of its members. Those of us who were elected from the Sandinista Youth are not just going to express opinions that please the leadership." The youth delegates were among the most outspoken advocates of individual balloting for National Directorate members.

The congress was also a lesson in how far the Sandinista grass roots have to go in developing coalition politics. Leaders were able to drive a wedge between the "Managua radicals" and delegates from other regions, because the Sandinistas' top-down leadership style has limited horizontal communication among the mass organisations. Regional delegations got their first chance to lobby each other at the congress itself, whereas party leaders had been in contact with delegates throughout the country during the six months of internal debate leading up to the congress. Feminists and trade unionists were also split over whether to



Daniel Ortega pores over his congress ballot

push for female or union representation in top leadership, an argument that turned out to be futile given that the deck had already been stacked against expanding the National Directorate.

Many Sandinistas believe, however, that as the various mass movements gather steam they will play a stronger role in determining party policy. They see the battle over the Sandinistas' future taking place not just inside the congress, but also in the streets.

"Those leaders who are hanging on tightly to power will be displaced little by little by social movements," notes delegate Nancy Aróstegui. "That's where the new Sandinista leadership will come from — out of day to day struggles." Ms. Aróstegui had dropped out of the grass-roots debates leading up to the congress because she felt party leaders were attempting to limit reforms.

The danger exists, meanwhile, that activists who pinned high hopes on the congress for sweeping reforms will now become disillusioned. Some, however, have seized on Mr. Daniel Ortega's promise that National Directorate members will be elected individually by secret ballot at the next congress. These activists say the door has been left open for democratic reform, although they surely have their work cut out for them in pressing for change.

"The congress won't be able to meet all expectations for change," Ms. Dora Maria Téllez told the Guardian. "If we have been able to send a clear signal of the kind of changes the membership wants, then we are beginning to lay the groundwork for reform. The challenge is to come out strengthened." — The Guardian.

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How to negotiate and for what?

By Yossi Beilin

THE permanent settlement between Israel and the Arabs should derive from the desire to ensure a stable Jewish majority, the ambition to afford security to the country's citizens, and the national identification with united Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

These are the only three principles. I would not agree to a peace retaining some two million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, or a significant proportion of them, under Israeli rule, even if an Arab party were to agree to this, because of the danger to the future of the Jewish majority in our state.

I would not agree to a peace if the territories to be evacuated were not demilitarised and if we were not assured of suitable warning measures. Nor would I agree to a peace without a unified Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

As for the West Bank and Gaza, the moment new borders are agreed upon, the nature of the solution becomes of secondary importance. It could be a Jordanian-Palestinian state, a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, or a demilitarised Palestinian state.

There are experts who are ready to swear that one of these solutions would ensure Israel's security, but in my opinion it is the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) that guarantees the security of Israel, even during peacetime.

On the Golan Heights, there is no demographic problem. The area possesses great strategic importance when there is no peace. On the other hand, it is beyond the recognised international frontier, and the government of Israel decided as far back as June 19, 1967, to propose peace to Syria on the basis of the international boundary.

Because no serious person imagines a peace with Syria without a return to the international frontier, Israel must conduct negotiations tenaciously over the demilitarisation of the Golan and the most meticulous security arrangements — these alone could enable us to withdraw.

As for the settlements, it would be only logical that those in the occupied territories should be left standing — as opposed to what happened in Yamit in 1982. Just as there are many Arab settlements under Israeli rule, there is no reason to prevent Israelis from living under non-Israeli rule.

A country confident in itself and its defensive strength does not need to fear any conference procedure, as long as it contains no element imposing a solution or granting the conference veto power over an agreement reached between the parties.

I hope the prime minister will waive his remaining technical reservation and agree to an opening international conference (which could already have been convened in precisely the same format in April 1987 and was rejected then by him and his colleagues).

No Arab entity can dictate to Israel who will represent it in negotiations. If the government of Israel decides it should be Minister Rehavam Ze'evi, who advocates "transfer," or Minister Yuval Ne'eman, who opposes the Camp David accords and demands their annulment, the Arabs will sit at the table with them. To the same extent, Israel cannot dictate the Arab or Palestinian representation.

The stance of the Likud government concerning Palestinian representation from East Jerusalem and outside of the territories is strange. After all, if the presence of a representative from East Jerusalem in the delegation is to be interpreted as Israeli readiness to concede East Jerusalem, then this implies that the participation of a representative from Hebron means Israel would give up Hebron. It is difficult to believe that this is the message the government wants to convey.

As for representatives from outside the territories — from the Palestinian "Diaspora" — if these do not take part, and if any settlement is agreed upon only with residents of the territories, what will Israel do if the conflict with the Palestinians continues with those who will claim they have been ignored? Will we then be prepared to pay twice?

The Labour Party must welcome any progress, however small, in the political process. It's not important who brings peace; peace itself is important. But the Likud cannot bring a lasting peace as long as it insists on annexing the occupied territories.

If a dialogue with our enemies ensues from an international conference, that would be very important progress. Labour will support any advance toward peace, even if the path is not necessarily of its choosing. This support will make the right-wing threats to leave the government irrelevant and provide Yitzhak Shamir with assurance as long as he moves in the direction of the political process.

To back the government, there's no need to join it. There's a wide gap between Labour's political credo and that of the Likud. It is important that the public believe this, and also that it understand that progress in the peace process is, in our view, much more vital than taking part in the country's administration. — The Jerusalem Post.

Castro's options shrink further with end of Soviet communism

By Joseph B. Frazier
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Cuba faces further belt-tightening with the shredding of Soviet communism regardless of Moscow's policy toward Fidel Castro's hard-line communist state.

The loss of support and trade from Eastern Europe already has Cuba scraping its plate. Food, fuel and spare parts are scarce and quickly getting scarcer. The Soviet Union has been scaling back aid and oil to Cuba and is likely to do so even more.

Soviet shipments of oil peaked at 13 million tonnes a couple of years ago but will be about 10 million this year and are projected to drop to 7 million in 1992.

Cuba has developed what it called a "zero option," a plan that foresees a possible total

cutoff of oil shipments. It has been tested in some towns and experimental farms and environments, among other things, communal kitchens and troop movements using charcoal as an energy source.

Cuba produces a tiny amount of low-quality, high-sulphur oil used mostly to fuel the cement industry.

So far Moscow has not said what it might do with Cuba, although Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said his country, which is in an economic crisis, cannot afford to continue its largesse to former client states.

This could affect not only oil but other essentials such as wheat, which Cuba gets from the Soviets.

Mr. Yeltsin's survival of last week's coup attempt by hard-liners was a sharp blow to Mr. Castro, although his government

has said little about it, citing it as an internal Soviet affair.

The crumbling of the Eastern European bloc last year cost Cuba an estimated 90 per cent of its foreign markets. Comecon, the East European trade group of which Cuba was a member, has dissolved.

The CIA estimates the Soviet subsidy to Cuba was about \$3.5 billion last year, down from \$4.16 billion in 1989. Most of it was in manufactured goods.

Some Cuba-watchers in Washington contend the Soviets overvalued the goods and that the real figure is closer to \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion.

"As long as the USSR or its parts are ruled by leaders who take a cool, calm, self-interested view that what they do should be in their own interests, then the relationship will be strained but not broken," Gillian Gunn. A

Cuba specialist with the Carnegie Endowment for Peace in Washington, said in a telephone interview.

"About 35 per cent (of Soviet trade with Cuba) is in manufactured goods that are of such poor quality that it is impossible to sell them anywhere else," she said. "Cuba has no choice," so it buys them.

"It permits the USSR to get something of value back from poor-quality manufactured goods."

She said the Soviets have become heavily dependent on the citrus and sugar they get in exchange for the goods and oil but that the emotional lashing out in the Soviet Union may lead to a cut in ties on ideological grounds as a symbol of the past regime that must be destroyed.

Cuba's desperation shows more by the day.

Domestic airline passengers wrap their airline lunches of bread and cold cuts in napkins and save them to eat later or for others. Paper napkins and plastic forks also are tucked away as unopened cans of soft drinks, virtually unavailable to most Cubans.

Cuba, meanwhile, has increased its dealings with China by 150 per cent in the past three years. Those ties among other topics are scheduled for discussion when Jiang Zemin, the secretary-general of China's Communist Party, visits Cuba in September.

Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodríguez returned from a 10-day trip to China a month ago.

A half million Chinese bicycles have appeared on Cuban streets. Cuba expects to have that many more by the end of the year and 1.5 million by next summer.

In the countryside, ox carts gradually are replacing farm machinery. The military now burns wood instead of oil to cook the troops' food and the government is experimenting with windmills to generate electricity.

There are lines for everything and virtually everything is rationed. Ration cards guarantee only the right to buy an item if it is available. It does not guarantee the supply.

The Soviets have pulled many of their advisers from Cuba but have left those working on the country's first nuclear power plant.

"If they withdraw them the Cubans could probably finish it but they might do so in a way that would make the rest of the world very nervous," Ms. Gunn said. "It might be in the interests of the United States if the Soviets stay on."

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U.N. officers see Bubiyan prisoners

(Continued from page 1)

diets invaded the island and suggested that the infiltrators might have been smugglers.

Government newspapers in Baghdad have said the Kuwaitis concocted the story in a ploy to keep American troops in the emirate.

The day before the Bubiyan incident, Washington announced that it was extending U.S. military presence in Kuwait past a planned Sept. 1 departure date.

Kuwait is about to sign an agreement guaranteeing "U.S. protection," the defence minister has been quoted as saying.

Sheikh Ali said he would visit Washington soon to sign a pact under which the United States would store weapons and carry out joint exercises in Kuwait.

The official Kuwaiti News Agency quoted Sheikh Ali as saying the pact covered military cooperation to keep regional peace, protection "of the two countries," the storage of weapons and equipment, and joint land, sea and air manoeuvres in Kuwait.

The agency said he was speaking in an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine Al Dirah, to be published Monday.

Sheikh Ali was quoted as saying Kuwait needed external protection but he did not support the idea of foreign bases "because Kuwait is small and the presence of bases in it makes it threatened all the time."

The agency earlier quoted Al Qabas newspaper as saying Kuwait and Washington were in the final phase of talks on the agreement.

It said American forces would keep a symbolic presence in Kuwait but would not have military bases there. Surveillance would be carried out by AWACS aircraft and a naval presence would continue.

The newspaper said the duration of the agreement was thought to be five to 10 years.

On Tuesday Washington announced it would keep 1,500 ground troops in the emirate for several months longer than scheduled. U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney toured Kuwait and other Gulf states in May to discuss security measures.

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Gorbachev says he will not quit

(Continued from page 1)

going back on reforms which should accelerate after the coup.

Mr. Major received assurances which he found "very comforting" about control of nuclear weapons.

Western leaders expressed concern about the possibility of central authorities losing control over the Soviet arsenal in the turmoil surrounding the coup.

The British prime minister outlined the Group of Seven's Soviet aid plans and told Mr. Gorbachev the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was "ready, willing and waiting to get involved in the process of reform in the Soviet Union," the official said.

Mr. Major was due to hold a second meeting with the Soviet leader later on Sunday.

Mr. Gorbachev told his TV interviewers that he was prepared to accept independence for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania if that was the will of their peoples.

"In this connection, if this is the ultimate will and the intention of the peoples of these republics, I believe we have to agree to this," he said.

Lithuania proclaimed its immediate independence in March 1990 and Estonia and Latvia followed suit in the aftermath of the coup. Foreign embassies have already been opened in Latvia and Lithuania.

Mr. Gorbachev did not say whether the republics would have to abide by Soviet legislation to secure their independence, particularly a law requiring a referendum and a five-year negotiating period.

Speaking to an emergency session of the standing Soviet parliament last week, Mr. Gorbachev initially made no reference to such conditions but later insisted that Soviet law be respected.

He also said Western recognition of independence was hasty.

Mr. Gorbachev told CNN he was meeting with leaders of 11 republics to develop a joint position to be presented to the congress.

"People expect not so much debate — the situation is clear, the causes of the coup are also clear — what the people want is the specifics — the specific steps

to take over in states beginning on Friday.

Costing \$180 million, it comprises military, police and civilian troops from 34 countries, including 700 Canadian infantry, 200 Polish army engineers, 12 light aircraft, and an identification commission, of 285 civilians.

Mr. Manz has said the U.N. has a "consolidated list" of about 70,000 voters based on a Spanish census which counted 73,497 Saharans of all ages.

Morocco has submitted lists of 120,000 more Saharans it says are refugees and eligible voters.

A Moroccan census in 1982 counted 163,868 people inside the territory, but an unknown number are immigrants from Morocco.

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Egyptian diplomat is leading contender for U.N. job

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — No sooner had Dr. Butros Ghali been named vice-prime minister for international relations in President Mubarak's latest cabinet reshuffle that his name began to circulate as a candidate to become the United Nations' new Secretary General.

What added water to the rumour mill was that President Mubarak had let it be known that he was not in favour of the idea, largely because it implied the potential loss of one of his most skillful players in the diplomatic field.

By mid-July, the rumour was confirmed and Mr. Ghali's candidacy was made official. On the eve of the U.N.'s fall session, that will serve as a forum for the selection of a replacement for Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Peruvian incumbent finishing his second term, Mr. Ghali is one of two candidates favoured for the job.

The other leading contender is Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan who has served as the U.N. high commissioner for refugees for 12 years, and more recently was the secretary general's representative for humanitarian relief in Iraq.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has indicated that he will not seek a third term.

Both at home and abroad, the 68-year-old Ghali is considered one of few men of international stature capable of breathing new life and vigor into the United Nations and bringing the organisation into the forefront of world affairs. Brilliant and versatile, Mr. Ghali has made international affairs a life-long career.

Since 1946 when he went to study in Paris, Ghali has been involved in world politics, developing along the years a specific vision of the role countries should play in the international community.

Born into a well-known political family of the Egyptian bourgeoisie — the son of a pasha and nephew of a prime minister — Mr. Ghali seemed destined for an illustrious life. "When I was young, I was interested in lots of things, too many perhaps," he recalled in an exclusive interview.

"I practiced all kinds of sports — horse-riding, fencing, duck hunting. I learned to fly and got a pilot's license. I was a bad student and an uncontrollable child. Maybe I was spoiled by a system of education that was too lenient."

That soon changed when he arrived in Paris and was confronted with a foreign world, a new language and a totally different work ethic. This period abroad marked his entry into the complex world of international affairs, in which he has since excelled, meeting challenges with brio and infinite dexterity, and earning a reputation as one of the world's most astute diplomats.

He arrived in Paris with a degree in law from Cairo University and immersed himself in his studies. In three years he earned as many diplomas, plus a doctorate in international law. He returned to Egypt to work as professor of international and diplomatic law at the political science department of Cairo University. On the side he launched several publications in Arabic, English and French that focused on international affairs and the Arab World.

"I am particularly interested in inter-African relations," he says. "I have attended almost every summit meeting since the Khartoum Summit in 1978 to the last held in June 1991 in Nigeria's new capital of Abuja. In 1980, I created the fund for aid to Africa. It is important to stress that Egypt is one of the few Third World countries to receive international aid but at the same time to send aid to poorer countries in the form of training and assistance. We have sent thousands of Egyptian experts to African countries and have received thousands of young Africans who have come to train in Egypt in all sorts of fields: in the police, the war against drugs, pilot training, the medical field and agriculture ... In addition, we have organised meetings between ministers of various African countries." Mr.

Looking to the future and the role of the United Nations' secretary general, Mr. Ghali's vision is clear. "The Secretary General is at the service of the

member countries and essentially his role is to achieve a consensus among the members, and in particular among the five permanent members of the Security Council," he says. "It is important to remember that for the past 45 years, the U.N. has had to deal with problems caused by the cold war. But in the coming years, the problems will be of a very different nature and more than ever they will require consensus and the participation of all the member states: on the absolute necessity of protecting the environment, for example."

"The U.N. will also have to confront problems linked to human rights. We have come to realise that without a minimum amount of democracy and effective participation in economic development, people cannot go forward. There will be problems linked to disarmament and many others we cannot anticipate as history is speeding up and the world is fast becoming a 'Global Village.' Our planet is shrinking and new situations will arise. We will need a lot of imagination to deal with them."

In this context, to ensure cooperation, the secretary general will have to preside over constant mediation and exchange of information between states, he believes. "The position of the two super-powers in the Gulf war and the fact that they chose to take the problem to the Security Council shows a democratisation of international relations," adds Mr. Ghali. "The international community participated in the liberation of Kuwait and I think it is important to increase the U.N.'s role in the solution of international conflicts."

Mr. Ghali has spent close to half a century applying his brilliant mind to untangling some knots in the complex web of international relations. "Although there is a lot of talk about democracy and its importance with, for example, African countries being prevailed upon to introduce multi-party systems, there has been very little said of democracy on a world level," he notes. "If we want a real solution to international problems, all the states will have to participate actively in the search for it. Every country should, within reason, have the right to express its point of view. Until now, the international community was very divided; countries were inward-looking and they concentrated on their own problems without looking at the problems of others."

"For a solution to work on a global scale," he adds, "we need every country to participate in its elaboration, every country has to feel the need and importance of solving a given problem. This is what I call the democratisation of the international society" World News Links.



Butros Butros Ghali

Ghali also helped set up an organisation regrouping African political parties whose last meeting was held in early August in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Ghali's efforts to promote international collaboration extend far beyond Africa to include countries in the world's three developing continents. He was one of the architects of the Group of 15, which includes countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The group held its first summit in June 1990 in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur and is planning a second meeting in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas next November.

Mr. Ghali was also behind the establishment of the Latin-African dialogue which is held alternately in Mexico and Egypt. "This dialogue was set up to facilitate contacts between Latin-American diplomats and experts interested in Arab and African affairs, and their counterparts in the Middle East and Africa who are interested in Latin America," he explained. "We have had seven meetings ... The last was held in June in Mexico under the theme: 'The Impact of the end of the Cold War in Latin America and Africa.'"

Over the years Mr. Ghali has lost a lot of his energy or grit. He continues to work a 10-hour day and travels at least twice a month, attending meetings and summits, giving conferences and lectures, and writing all the while. It was in 1977 that Mr. Ghali stepped up into the highest levels of international politics when he was appointed minister of state for foreign affairs and then minister of foreign affairs by the late President Anwar Al Sadat. He guided Egypt's foreign relations for 14 years. It was Ghali who steered Egypt into the signing of the Camp David peace treaty with Israel in 1979. He also accompanied President Sadat on his historic visit to Jerusalem.

He likes to recall the arduous Camp David negotiations: "The military mission was led by Defence Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and I headed the political side. The Israeli delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defence Minister Erza Weisman. The talks went from September 1978 to March 1979 and have gone down as some of the toughest negotiations in the history of world diplomacy. The negotiations were very tense and only really succeeded thanks to mediation by President Jimmy Carter and his Foreign Minister Cyrus Vance."

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Financial Markets
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary
(August 26-August 30, 1991)

THE substantial losses that had resulted from the violent gyrations in exchange rates two weeks ago have been reversed. Trade thus remained subdued during most of the trading sessions as traders preferred to wait for economic data releases during the next ten days for clearer direction on the economic front. Meanwhile, the dollar ended the week marginally lower against all major currencies.

The dollar fluctuated narrowly in quiet trade Monday and Tuesday. Observers maintained that despite the undisputed significance of Soviet developments on exchange rates in the medium term, the ones in the near term were shifting towards economic indicators. They attributed the thin trade to several factors including market participants awaiting U.S. economic data releases in the days ahead, developments in the USSR, particularly those concerning the separatist movements of the Baltic and other Soviet republics, a bank holiday in London and Hong Kong Monday, and the reluctance of traders to establish substantial positions in view of the long weekend ahead, as New York was to close the following Monday.

Wednesday witnessed some discrepancies in dollar performance between different markets. The U.S. currency broke through resistance at 1.76 marks in early Tokyo trading, retreated marginally at the close and then declined further in New York, breaching several key support levels at 1.7450, 1.7420, and 1.7380 marks reaching a low of 1.7340 marks before rebounding slightly. It closed at its lowest levels of the week at 1.7385 marks to the dollar, 136.55 yen to the dollar and 1.6908 dollars to the sterling pound. The dollar's decline in New York was triggered by the release of second quarter U.S. GNP figures, which were revised downward to an unexpected, annualised drop of 0.1% compared to the preliminary estimate of 0.4% rise. The initial reaction to the revision was followed by technical stop-loss selling by dealers holding substantial long dollar positions.

By Thursday the impact of the GNP figures was over in the Far East, as dealers tried to find the U.S. currency's bottom. A wave of dollar short covering was thus triggered, taking the dollar to close at its highest closing level against the yen at (137.13) yen to the dollar.

After reaching a high of 1.7535 marks to the dollar in New York Friday, profit-taking ahead of a prolonged weekend moderated the dollar's rise bringing it down to close at levels higher than Thursday but lower than the previous week's closing rates. The dollar's earlier rise was triggered by a trio of stronger than expected U.S. economic data releases including a three year record rise of 1.2% in Leading Economic Indicators, a 21 year record rise of 6.2% in July's Factory Goods Orders, and Chicago's Purchasing Managers' Index which rose in August by 5.9% reaching 56.6%.

Despite the positive data released Friday, some analysts expressed concerns over the total U.S. economic picture, as the improvement was confined to production and productivity data, while employment data remained negative. Markets are thus eagerly awaiting next Friday's U.S. employment figures, which many believe is the true gauge for the economic situation on which the Fed's decision to ease its discount rate hinges. Observers thus expect subdued trading to prevail this week until the release of the employment figures on Sept. 6.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	23/8/1991	30/8/1991	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6770	1.6809	0.23%
Deutsche Mark	1.7480	1.7470	0.05%
Swiss Franc	1.5275	1.5264	0.07%
French Franc	5.9345	5.9325	0.03%
Japanese Yen	136.55	136.63	0.05%

Base-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.62	6.00	5.66	5.87
Sterling Pound	10.81	10.56	10.75	10.43
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.31	9.06	9.37
Swiss Franc	8.12	8.81	7.93	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.56	9.00	9.50
Japanese Yen	7.57	6.75	7.56	6.77

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.690	.692
Sterling Pound	1.1587	1.1645
Deutsche Mark	.3944	.3964
Swiss Franc	.4515	.4538
French Franc	.1162	.1168
Japanese Yen	.5057	.5062
Dutch Guilder	.3503	.3521
Swedish Krona	.1085	.1090
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532
Belgian Franc	.01917	.01927

Soviet economists, bankers warn of financial collapse

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet state bankers and economists say their country is bordering on financial collapse and warn that inflation could reach 1,000 per cent in four months.

The independent news agency Interfax said the warnings have been voiced at official meetings and written in memorandums to the Soviet leadership over the past few days.

It quoted Arkady Volzky, a close associate of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and member of a special committee set up to run the economy after last month's coup attempt by communist hardliners. "According to him, Gosbank (the Soviet central bank) sent a memorandum on Thursday to Mikhail Gorbachev, from which follows that the Soviet Union is standing on the brink of financial collapse," Interfax said in a report issued late Saturday.

Unless the "toughest financial measures" were taken, the Soviet central bank's memorandum said, money in circulation would surge to some 240 billion roubles (\$134 billion at the commercial rate of exchange) by the year end from 136 billion (\$75.9 billion) in January.

Gosbank said the Soviet mint could not keep up with demand for banknotes to pay workers higher salaries, and was turning out money at more than four times the rate it did in 1987. Interfax also said independent experts agreed with Gosbank's economic assessment at a Friday meeting of Mr. Volzky's committee.

S.Korean overseas investments register sharp increase

SEOUL (AP) — South Korean corporate investment overseas totaled \$2.21 billion at the end of 1990, up 58.4 per cent from a year earlier, the trade and industry ministry has reported.

The sharp increase was attributed largely to businesses moving operations overseas to take advantage of cheaper labour and better marketing conditions. Ministry officials said the cumulative total included \$988 million invested in 482 manufacturing projects and \$396 million in 446 trading businesses.

The remaining \$834 million was invested in construction and developing energy and other natural resources, the officials said.

Of the investment in manufacturing, 39.2 per cent went to labour-intensive industries such as textiles, footwear and stuffed toys and 27.1 per cent to electronics. South East Asia was listed as the favourite place for Korean investment.

Investment amounting to \$1.5 million or less per project accounted for 57.5 per cent of the total 1,220 projects, while that exceeding \$5 million per project represented 11.7 per cent, the ministry said.

Hyundai's car exports top two million since '76

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Hyundai Motor Co. has marked a milestone by exporting more than two million cars since its first shipment in 1976, Hyundai officials have said. The cumulative total of Hyundai exports reached 2,000,670 cars Thursday when a shipment of 1,785 cars left for Italy, they said. Hyundai became South Korea's first car exporter in 1976 when the first subcompact Pony was sent to Ecuador, they said. Some 1.48 million cars have been sold in the United States and Canada, 205,000 cars in Europe, 93,000 cars to Asia, 67,000 to Latin America and 65,000 to the Middle East. Hyundai has accounted for 77.5 per cent of the total 2.58 million cars exported by South Korea since 1976. Hyundai officials did not give figures on its domestic car sales, but said that they were slightly smaller than the export number.

OPEC gears up oil output to meet high winter demand

LONDON (R) — OPEC crude oil output raced to a 17-month high of 23.69 million barrels per day (b/d) in August as oil producers responded to a market gearing for the high winter demand period, a Reuters survey showed.

The August estimate is 270,000 b/d higher than July's and the highest since the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) pumped 24 million b/d in March 1990.

"Through the month we saw progressively higher tanker loading rates from Saudi," said a European oil executive.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's kingpin, accounted for most of the rise, pushing output up to 8.4 million b/d in August from July's 8.2 million b/d. Riyadh also has a half share in 200,000 b/d of Neutral Zone oil, the territory between it and Kuwait.

Most other member countries showed virtually no change.

Washington-based Petroleum Finance Co.

OPEC expects the world will need around 23.7 million b/d of its oil in the last three months of the year.

Saudi Arabia has already said it would seek an 8.5 million b/d share of OPEC output when the 13 oil ministers meet in Geneva on Sept. 24 to set production levels for the remainder of the year.

OPEC looks certain to overshoot the 22.3 million b/d third quarter production target, which omits Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil. The 11 members party of the agreement have averaged 22.97 million b/d during the first two months of this quarter.

Growing potential supplies from Iran and Kuwait will be taken into account when OPEC meets in Geneva.

Iraq is still awaiting clearance to export a limited amount of oil, and a U.N. report on the issue is due early this month.

The Reuters survey showed no change in estimated Iraqi production from July's level of 350,000 b/d.

The United Arab Emirates is reckoned to have held output steady at 2.3 million b/d.

Neighbouring Qatar left output unchanged at 400,000 b/d and Venezuela, the major OPEC producer outside the Gulf, ran its pumps at 2.3 million b/d.

Oil Minister Celestino Armas said the country was putting 70,000 b/d into store. Ecuador's output was 280,000 b/d.

Indonesia produced about 1.45 million b/d in August. Libya and Algeria held their output steady at 1.45 million b/d and 800,000 b/d respectively. Nigerian output was estimated at 1.9 million b/d through the last two months and nearby Gabon was unchanged at 300,000 b/d.

Soviet break-up could stimulate U.S. investments

NEW YORK (R) — The break-up of the Soviet Union into 15 separate republics and the decline of the central government could boost U.S. business investment there, executives and bankers have said.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's six-year campaign of perestroika reforms has drawn plenty of Western business interest but little actual investment because of intractable economic problems and political instability.

The dramatic changes that have followed last month's failed coup could help resolve some of those problems, said Soviet trade specialist James Giffen, president of Mercator Corp., a merchant bank.

Mr. Giffen has been working for four years on a huge package of about a dozen projects in Russia, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan involving Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., R.R. Nabisco Inc., Eastman Kodak Co., Chevron Corp. and Johnson Johnson.

Mr. Giffen said the linchpin to the deal is Chevron's plan to develop the huge Tengiz oil field in the southern republic of Kazakhstan, which has known reserves of 25 billion barrels, equivalent to six years' worth of Soviet production.

Hard currency generated by oil sales from the field would finance the building of factories to make consumer goods, medical equipment and other products, he said. Mr. Giffen said the project, known as the American Trade Consortium, "dwarfs by far everything else being done or under discussion" in the Soviet Union.

But the Chevron project has been on hold since it was initially nearly six months ago because of what Mr. Giffen referred to as "bureaucratic sabotage" by Soviet hardliners who saw the

Berlin to cut jobs and raise taxes to plug huge budget gaps

BERLIN (R) — Berlin, Germany's capital and future seat of government, has said it would cut 10,000 civil service jobs, raise company taxes and sell off state-owned firms to plug yawning gaps in its 1992 budget.

Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen said the 2.7 billion marks (\$1.6 billion) of cuts involved postponing the building of a Jewish museum due for completion by 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Berlin, facing a six billion mark (\$3.5 billion) deficit in 1992, has had to cut spending because of a reduction in federal government subsidies for the once-divided city.

At the same game, the city faces soaring costs as it improves transport and infrastructure for when it takes over from Bonn as Germany's seat of government in the year 2000.

Mr. Diepgen told reporters the cuts also postponed building of an American library, forced cancellation of a new court house, and meant Berlin's withdrawal from the 195 federal garden show.

Most job cuts would be through natural wastage rather than sacking any of the 200,000 workers in the city's administration.

Berlin also hoped to raise 600 million marks (\$346.7 million) by partially privatising several state-owned companies, including Berliner Bank A.G. and the city's Gasag gas utility.

Meanwhile, desperate to stop a brain-drain of scientists from the ex-communist east, the German government has launched a campaign to persuade researchers to stay put.

It hopes emergency cash for research and longer-term plans to shift more technology to the east will counter an exodus that has helped slash the number of industrial scientists from 70,000 to a mere 20,000 in the year since German economic union.

"A confidential economics ministry report obtained by Reuters says the departure of product developers and researchers is jeopardising the depressed region's chance of becoming an innovative part of united Germany."

"The potential is shrinking fast, in particular because top people are migrating to western Germany," it says. "If this development is not stopped, east German industries will not be able to come up with attractive and competitive products in the foreseeable future."

Helmut Kohn, head of the economics ministry's research and technology department, said east German scientists were often innovative since they had long worked at devising substitutes for embargoed Western technologies.

For example, researchers were good at engineering ceramics for use instead of industrial diamonds in the motor industry.

Since economic union in July 1990, three months before political unification, some 30,000 researchers have fled east Germany.

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Soviet military to be smaller, cheaper

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin's post-Communist army will be smaller, cheaper and mostly volunteer, responsible for nuclear weapons and border defence, say the new Defence Minister and other Soviet officials.

Its purse strings will be held closely by leaders of the Soviet republics, which are forming their own national guards.

"The people have changed and the army has changed," said the new Defence Minister, Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, 49. "The Soviet Armed Forces will never, not under any conditions, be used against our own people."

The threat from the Soviet military in the next few months or years might stem not from potential aggression by Moscow, but from the chance that it could break apart in the chaos that some fear might engulf the country.

Marshal Shaposhnikov was appointed two weeks ago, after the hardline coup against Mikhail Gorbachev failed.

Since then, he has endorsed: Replacement of 80 per cent of the top officer corps, removal of Communist Party cells from the army, transition to a mostly volunteer force, reduction in the length of conscript service from 24 to 18 months and formation of National Guards under the presidents of the republics.

He also opened preliminary talks on the presence of Soviet troops in those republics that choose to secede and said that the 10,000 draftees from the Baltic Republic of Lithuania could be released from their service.

The shakeup continued Saturday, when Mr. Gorbachev announced the dismissal of two deputy defence ministers: Ground Force Commander Gen. Valentin I. Varennikov, already arrested for his alleged role in the coup, and Air Defence Commander Gen. Ivan M. Tretyak.

Mr. Gorbachev named Col. Gen. Vladimir M. Semenov as the new ground force commander and Col. Gen. Viktor A. Prudnikov as air defence commander. He named Lt. Gen. Yevgeny N. Podkolzin as paratrooper commander, replacing Col. Gen. Pavel S. Grachev, promoted to chief of staff, the No. 2 job.

Some changes will come more quickly than others, but the direction and pace clearly will be set by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other republic leaders.

It is not yet clear how many of the 15 Soviet republics will join a reconstituted Soviet Union, and their leaders have not decided what shape to give the new country. But most are forming their own armies.

Mr. Yeltsin and other republic leaders agree that there should be a National Defence Force with control over nuclear arms.

"Any division of the strategic weapons, of strategic armaments among the republics, which could create an additional threat to peace, is categorically ruled out," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Strong anti-nuclear movements exist in the other two republics where strategic nuclear weapons are based — the Ukraine and Kazakhstan — and Mr. Yeltsin says he expects most of those arms to be withdrawn to Russian territory.

The leaders of the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, Russia's largest neighbours, expressed concern over the dominant role that Mr. Yeltsin was beginning to play and quickly reached bilateral defence and economic agreements with the Russian leader.

The Ukrainian declaration of independence, passed last Saturday, proclaims the republic "nuclear-free." Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev wants a council representing member republics "win should control those whose finger is on the button of the missile launchers."

Breaking from the Soviet tradition of a large conscript army, the national force will be smaller, mostly volunteer and professional, trained for modern warfare, say Marshal Shaposhnikov and others. But they have not indicated how many of the more than 4 million Soviet troops will be cut.

Under pressure from Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Gorbachev appointed Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev to oversee defence and security matters. Mr. Silayev promptly announced a 50 per cent cut in the 1992 defence budget from the 1991 level of 100 billion rubles, or \$179 billion at official exchange rates.

The budget, however, is not an accurate count of Soviet defence spending, much of which is buried in bureaucracies other than the Defence Ministry.

Peace process picks up steam as clashes diminish in Croatia

BELGRADE (AP) — Croatian Radio reported scattered mortar and artillery barrages overnight, but peace in Yugoslavia seemed closer Sunday following Serbia's acceptance of a European Community (EC) peace plan.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek was due to arrive in Belgrade to "arrange for the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the EC plan," a spokesman for the Dutch embassy said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Van Den Broek holds the 12-nation EC's rotating presidency. The spokesman said the necessary documents already had been drawn up, and Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said the ceasefire could be signed by Monday.

Serbian Foreign Minister Vladimir Jovanovic announced his republic's acceptance of the EC peace plan late Saturday. Croatia and the federal government had agreed to it earlier.

A Dutch Foreign Ministry spokeswoman in the Hague said Mr. Van Den Broek was to meet with Serbian leaders, as well as officials from other republics and members of the federal presidency. The spokeswoman said that Serbian leaders had reversed their earlier rejection of the stationing of ceasefire observers in Croatia, which was a key EC demand.

On Tuesday, EC foreign ministers at an emergency meeting in

Brussels set a Sunday deadline for Serbia to agree to participate in an international peace conference.

"The signals coming out of Serbia were encouraging enough for him to go," the spokeswoman said of Mr. Van Den Broek's departure. "Serbia's position is such that it makes us optimistic, but we have the necessary reservations."

Several previous plans meant to bring peace to Yugoslavia after Croatia and Slovenia declared independence June 25 failed soon after adoption because of widely differing interpretations by Serbia and Croatia. The two republics remain as far apart as ever on the key issue of the status of the Serb minority in Croatia.

Croatia and Slovenia declared independence after Serbia and its allies failed to accept their idea of transforming the current federation into a loose association of sovereign states.

There are about 600,000 ethnic Serbs in Croatia, about 12 per cent of its population. Many refuse to live in an independent Croatia.

Serbia seems willing to accept independence for Slovenia, where few Serbs live. But it insists that if Croatia secedes, its borders should be redrawn so that areas with a large Serb population are excluded.

Croatia accuses Serbia of instigating the current fighting to make a grab for territory and



create "greater Serbia." Serbia says Croatia's Serbian inhabitants are persecuted.

Current hatreds are fanned by memories of hundreds of thousands of Serbs slaughtered in death camps run by Croatia's Nazi puppet government in World War II.

Croatia accuses the federal armed forces of siding with the Serb guerrillas, a view some foreign governments now share.

The army has fought almost exclusively against Croatian units in the republic. But the army says it is only trying to avoid all-out civil war by keeping the warring sides apart, and asserts its units fire only when fired upon.

More than 280 people have

died in the Croatian fighting since the independence declaration.

The airspace above Croatia and Slovenia remained closed for the second day, after air force fighters Saturday intercepted a Ugandan Airlines Boeing 707 carrying 19 tonnes of contraband arms for Croatia.

The jetliner was being unloaded by the military Sunday. Yugoslav federal troops and Croatian militiamen exchanged fire Saturday when Croatian police tried to approach the plane after it had been forced down.

Croatian security forces continued to block road access to the airport Sunday, and the mood remained tense at the facility, but there was no fresh fighting.

Chinese army on alert following Soviet upheaval

HONG KONG (AP) — China placed its military on alert following the collapse of the Soviet Communist Party, reports quoting a high-ranking Chinese military officer said Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Fu Kuiling said security was particularly high among units stationed along China's border with the Soviet Union and at airports. Air, naval and ground forces of the People's Liberation Army were all involved, he said.

His remarks were reported in two Hong Kong papers, the conservative English-language South China Morning Post and the independent Chinese-language Ming Pao.

Gen. Fu identified himself as the political commissar of the Nanjing Military Region, one of seven in China, according to

Hong Kong Chinese journalists who interviewed him in Peking.

The official Chinese press as well as Peking-learning periodicals in Hong Kong have said Gen. Fu was removed from that post after the June 4, 1989 crackdown on a pro-democracy movement.

His return marks the first mention of a high-ranking military officer who was removed after the crackdown but regained his post.

Gen. Fu said the 1 million Chinese troops deployed to fight the effects of China's worst flooding in a century have also returned to their barracks, another sign of the seriousness with which China's army views the developments at its north.

A Western diplomat in Peking, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said Chinese military

leaders held daily consultations during the Soviet turmoil and troops in key areas were confined to barracks.

China's armed forces number roughly 3 million.

The collapse of communism in the Soviet Union has left China as the sole totalitarian giant in the world. Reports from Peking and Hong Kong say China's hardline leadership reacted with shock to the failure of the coup and dismay at news that the Soviet Communist Party was suspended Thursday and its accounts frozen.

"The incidents in the Soviet Union show us the importance of following the leadership of the Communist Party," Gen. Fu was quoted as saying. "The Soviet incidents could not happen in China because we (the army)

strongly believe in the leadership of the party."

Still, Gen. Fu said "some people might try to take advantage of the situation and commit crimes." As a result, he said, the People's Liberation Army is being placed on alert. It was unclear when the order was given.

Ming Pao also reported Sunday that the heads of China's seven military regions and other officers would assemble in the southern provincial capital of Canton shortly to discuss the upheaval in Moscow.

Gen. Fu was interviewed in Peking during a nine-day meeting of the standing committee of China's rubber stamp legislature, the National People's Congress, which ends later this week.

Right-wing hunger strikers get moral support from Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (R) — An Englishman has starved himself to within days of death in support of South Africa's apartheid racial separation system but, surprisingly, he has won moral support from black leader Nelson Mandela.

This turn-up in South African politics finds the African National Congress (ANC) president sharing rare common ground with right-wing extremists.

Government opponents from across the political spectrum have united in calling for the release on humanitarian grounds of the Englishman and two other white guerrilla suspects who are near death after more than 40 days without food.

Weakest of the three is Henry Martin, a British immigrant whose hobby is training German shepherd dogs. He has not eaten for 56 days and hospital sources say he could die within days.

Mr. Martin, who is demanding unconditional release as a political prisoner, is one of many immigrants who have embraced apartheid as enthusiastically as have the South Africans who created it.

He and fellow hunger-striker Adrian Maritz and Lood Van Schalkwyk — all members of the white supremacist Orde Boersvolk — are charged with wounding several blacks in a bomb attack on a taxi rank used by blacks.

They are also accused of murdering a computer technician by sending him a parcel bomb.

Mr. Mandela plans to visit the hunger strikers in hospital to express his support for their release.

The hunger strike, combined with the violent disruption of meetings of President F.W. de Klerk's ruling National Party, has fuelled fears that the white right will increasingly resort to violence to get its way.

The right, comprising the parliamentary Conservative Party (CP) and a dozen para-military splinter groups, insists that white Afrikaners are a separate nation and have the right to self-determination in an independent state — just like the Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians.

The right-wingers accuse Mr. De Klerk of treachery in ending apartheid, saying he had no mandate from whites to do so.

"People are making one hell of a mistake to underestimate the threat of right-wing violence," CP defence spokesman Koos Van Der Merwe said recently.

"If Mandela takes over, you'll have widespread right-wing terrorism... this won't be a country worth living in."

South Africa had its first foretaste of white civil war in the conservative Transvaal town of Ventersdorp this year when hundreds of members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) clashed with police at a National Party meeting addressed by Mr. De Klerk.

Three right-wingers were killed and five policemen wounded in the riot, which AWB leaders called the start of a white revolution.

Right-wing leaders have warned the government that violence could erupt if any of the three current hunger strikers die in detention.

Supporters of the three say the computer technician they are alleged to have murdered was a legitimate target because he worked for the ANC. One caller to a radio phone-in programme, who said he was a relative of a hunger striker, said the taxi rank had been bombed because black taxis were a hazard on the roads.

Many political analysts say the AWB and other para-military right-wing groups pose little serious threat because they lack unity and are badly disorganised.

"They are a nuisance factor," said Wim Booysse, an investment adviser who specialises in right-wing research. "Some of the groups are no more than one man, his dog and a fax machine."

Mr. Booysse predicted the death of the hunger strikers would not spark an eruption of violence but would provide the right with new martyrs and stiffen its morale.

Max Du Preez, who edits the independent Afrikaans-language newspaper Vrye Weekblad, said the best way to defuse right-wing violence was to at least discuss the concept of a white homeland in constitutional negotiations.

But in his speech to the Ventersdorp meeting Mr. De Klerk dismissed the idea as unworkable. "Partition is an unattainable dream," he said.

American cardinal seeks end to U.S. embargo against Vietnam

HANOI (R) — The Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Bernard Law, said Sunday, a day after meeting Vietnam's new foreign minister, that he was praying and pushing for an end to the U.S. trade embargo against Hanoi.

"I personally hope and pray and push for the day that the embargo will be lifted," Arch. Law said after celebrating mass for about 3,000 Vietnamese crowded into Hanoi's 19th century cathedral.

Vietnamese of all ages, squeezed into rickety wooden

pews and sitting or standing in the aisles of the Gothic cathedral, heard the 95-minute mass in Latin, English and Vietnamese.

Arch. Law was the first American churchman ever to say mass in Hanoi, which has had a Communist government since French colonial rule ended in 1954, local church sources said.

Arch. Law's delegation, including three other American churchmen, a Spanish priest from Rome and a lay official of the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops, was the first

such high level U.S. church group to visit at the invitation of the Vietnamese government.

It was also the first American delegation received by Vietnam's new foreign minister, Nguyen Manh Cam, who met the group for one and a half hours.

He listened very attentively and carefully addressed each of our points," one member of the delegation told Reuters.

Arch. Law said in his sermon Catholics should follow the teachings of the church, love one another and help build society.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Ershad charged with gold smuggling

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's deposed President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, serving 10 years in jail for keeping illegal firearms, has been indicted for smuggling gold, police said Sunday. They said the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had earlier submitted charges against six of Gen. Ershad's alleged accomplices, including Briton David Anthony Chalker and German Bernard Rudiger. Together they allegedly tried to smuggle gold worth about \$750,000 from Singapore on July 17, 1990, which was seized by customs officials at Dhaka Airport. CID officer Golam Mostafa, charging Gen. Ershad Saturday, told a special tribunal that the ex-president had been actively involved in the smuggling attempt. Gen. Ershad had helped one of his alleged accomplices, Commodore Maimul Islam, former chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, to flee the country, he said. The five others, including the foreigners, are in police custody pending trial. If convicted, Gen. Ershad and the others could be jailed for life, police told reporters.

1st batch of EC medicine reaches Albania

TIRANA (R) — A first shipment of emergency medical aid from the European Community (EC) to Albania arrived in Tirana at the weekend, state radio reported. The supplies — 10 tonnes of medicines worth some \$1.8 million — were the first part of a package of extra aid promised by the community to Europe's poorest nation. The radio added that further shipments of medicines were expected to arrive in the next two months. Tens of thousands of Albanians, mostly young men, have tried to flee Albania since last December in search of a better life. Factories are idle for lack of materials and basic food is scarce. The EC, under pressure from Italy to help stem the latest flood of Albanian refugees last month, promised an extra \$2.3 million of emergency aid, bringing the amount of EC aid to Albania this year to about \$4.7 million. The EC earlier granted aid to Greece and Italy to cope with the flood of refugees and has promised to deliver 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Albanians worst-hit by their country's economic crisis.

Chinese dissidents 'not on hunger strike'

PEKING (R) — China denied Sunday that two imprisoned pro-democracy dissidents were on hunger strike and said the men were getting proper medical treatment in a rare attempt to blunt Western criticism of Peking's human rights record. The unusual report on the health of Wang Jintao and Chen Ziming, each jailed for 13 years, appeared one day before a U.S. congressional delegation arrives to try to visit the men, alleged by authorities to be the "black hands behind the black hands" who organised mass protests centred in Peking's Tiananmen Square in 1989. The official New China News Agency, quoting a senior prison administrator and a prison doctor, said Mr. Chen "has been basically eating normally in the past dozen days." The two declared a hunger strike on Aug. 14. "Wang on the other hand can be considered to eat irregularly in this period," the agency said. "Wang is in good health on the whole," it said. The agency dismissed a "rumor" that Mr. Chen was suffering from a disease that threatened his internal organs. It said reports that Mr. Wang suffered from a severe disease that was getting worse were "completely against the fact."

China executes 16 after mass sentencing

PEKING (R) — China executed 16 people for selling women, rape, murder, robbery and hooliganism after a mass sentencing in Shandong province in the east, a local newspaper said. The executions were carried out immediately after sentencing on Aug. 20, according to Friday's Datong daily, received in Peking Sunday. Criminals sentenced to death in China are shot in the back of the head.

Taiwan soldier kills two, shoots self

TAIPEI (R) — A Taiwanese military policeman armed with an M-16 rifle killed two people and wounded five in a shooting rampage before committing suicide near Taipei early Sunday. "It seems he just went mad," a military spokesman said by telephone. The soldier, Chen Shih-Hsiung, 20, shot dead a sergeant while standing guard at a military training centre in Wuksun, near Taipei. The officer had criticised him for drinking while on duty. Chen then wounded two other soldiers before running out of the centre and trying to commandeer a taxi, shooting the driver dead. He wounded three passers-by before seizing another taxi and driving off, the spokesman said. After a 10-hour manhunt in the Taipei area, police found Chen's body on a mountain slope outside the city. He shot himself with his service pistol after discarding his rifle, the spokesman added.

Relatives of KAL victims hold service

SEOUL (R) — South Koreans mourning relatives killed when a Korean Airlines (KAL) Jumbo jet was shot down by a Soviet fighter eight years ago sailed for the first time Sunday to the spot where the aircraft is presumed to have plunged into the sea. A Soviet cruise ship took 94 relatives on an anniversary pilgrimage to the waters near the Soviet Far East island of Moneron, west of Sakhalin, for an emotional memorial service. South Korean state television showed sobbing relatives tossing bunches of flowers into the sea and calling out the names of their loved ones. The voyage was made after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev accepted a request earlier this month by the association representing families of Korean victims of the disaster to hold a service for the dead at the site of the crash. In a speech read by Hong-Hyon Mo, head of the association, the relatives urged Moscow to reveal the whole truth behind the incident, make a formal apology and pay compensation, state television said.

Mudflows engulf Philippine villages

ANGELES, Philippines (R) — Thousands of the people, many screaming in terror, fled their homes Sunday when an avalanche of steaming volcanic mud up to 20 feet high (six metres) roared through villages in the northern Philippines. Police fired warning shots in the air, church bells rang, and residents ran in panic as mudflows from Mount Pinatubo volcano crashed down river channels and flooded the streets of Angeles and nearby villages, witnesses said. Acting Angeles Mayor Edgardo Panamintan said he was checking unconfirmed reports of casualties. It was not immediately known if Clark Air Base, the volcano-damaged U.S. installation in Angeles, was hit by the mudflows, consisting of ash, rock and other debris deposited on the slopes of Pinatubo and loosened by rains. Mr. Panamintan said he feared the mudflows, triggered by heavy monsoon rains, might engulf the power plant near Angeles, 80 kilometres north of Manila.

Japanese rehearse for major quake

TOKYO (R) — Millions of Japanese took part in disaster drills Sunday, anniversary of the 1923 killer earthquake that demolished Tokyo. Rescue workers practised freeing passengers stranded in underground subway depots, helicopters lifted cars off elevated freeways and firefighters fought huge blazes on "Prevention Day." Japan's annual rehearsal in the event of a major earthquake. At the foot of Mount Unzen in southwestern Japan, residents held disaster drills in the event of a volcanic eruption, a day after authorities issued new evacuation orders affecting some 150 households. Over 10,000 people in Shimabara, located at the eastern base of the newly active volcano, have been evacuated from their homes near Unzen which erupted June 3. The death count from the eruption stands at 43 people. Authorities have repeatedly warned residents around Unzen, located on the main southern island Kyushu, that another serious eruption could occur at any time. Government officials estimated that some 12 million people took part in this year's disaster drill in the most earthquake-prone areas of central and northern Japan.

COLUMN

Country singer critically injured in car wreck

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, (R) — Country music singer Dottie West was critically injured on her way to a performance when her car ran off the road, police said Sunday. West, 58, was listed in critical but stable condition in intensive care at Vanderbilt University Hospital, spokesmen said. The hospital's Dr. John Morris said she had a ruptured liver, ruptured spleen, which surgeons removed, and a possible broken neck. It was the singer's second car accident within a month — she broke her nose in a crash in July — and the latest in a litany of troubles. Last year Ms. West declared bankruptcy and she is continuing a long battle with U.S. tax authorities, which accuses her of hiding assets. George Thackston, 81, who was driving the car when it ran off the road Friday and crashed, also was in intensive care, authorities said. Ms. West, who has had more than 60 hits on country music charts since the early 1960s, is best known for her song Country Sunshine, which became the theme for a soft drink commercial in the 1970s.

State promoting dove hunting as a drug alternative

COLUMBIA, (AP) — "Shoot for the future — don't use drugs," a State Wildlife Department slogan used to encourage youths to shoot doves instead of using drugs, is being denounced by animal rights organisations. "We are outraged of the absurdity of giving people two choices — snorting drives or shooting drugs," said Heidi Prescott, a national director of the Fund For Animals. The group, based in Silver Spring, claims 250,000 members. The dove shoots began a year ago to give parents and children a chance to enjoy the outdoors, said Brock Conrad, director of the State Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. This year's slogan was patterned after the "hooked on fishing, not on drugs" programme in South Carolina and other states, he said. The fund for animals will join the Animal Rights Alliance of South Carolina and the Greenville-based Peaceable Kingdom to protest the hunt in three counties on Sept. 7. Protesters also plan to be on the dove fields the next day for the hunt, a South Carolina tradition. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates there will be 475 million doves at the opening of the fall season. About 9 per cent are killed by hunters and many others die from natural causes. Because doves have a high reproductive rate, they will replenish their population by next fall, Conrad said.

Dead man sentenced to hang by Kenyan court

NAIROBI (R) — A man who died in police custody last year has been convicted of violent robbery by a Kenyan court and sentenced to hang along with three other members of his gang, the daily Nation newspaper reported Saturday. "He should serve the sentence wherever he is since his death certificate and burial permit were not in the court file," ruled Charles Rinjau, senior magistrate in Nakuru, 160 kilometres west of Nairobi. The dead man, John Kamau, and his gang were found guilty of killing a pregnant housewife while robbing a house of jewellery and cash with machetes and iron bars in 1989.

Sheriff's deputy ordered women to expose breasts

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — A sheriff's deputy was forced to resign amid allegations he stopped women motorists and ordered them to expose their breasts, investigators said. David Nereau, 25, told an unspecified number of women he was searching for a woman with a tattoo on her breast who had been abducted in a bank robbery, investigators said. Because Mr. Nereau did not touch the women's breasts, he couldn't be charged with a crime, said Bob Ferrell, a sheriff's office spokesman. "He just looked," Mr. Ferrell said. Mr. Nereau resigned on Aug. 16 after being told he was about to be fired, Mr. Ferrell said. The deputy could be stripped of his certification to work as a law officer, the spokesman said.